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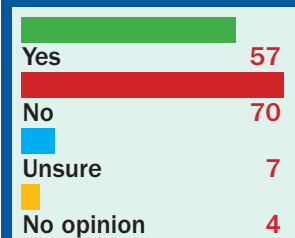
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EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

POLL RESULTS

Should the United States engage in military action against Syria?



Sunday, September 8, 2013

22 days to go
before the start of the new fiscal year

INSIDE

FOCUS



What is it about chemical weapons that set them apart in policy and perception? **> PAGE 18**

LIFE & STYLE



Grammy-winner Bruno Mars will sing at halftime of the Super Bowl in February. **> PAGE 21**

Inos seeks meeting on US plans to bolster regional defense

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is seeking a meeting with U.S. Department of Defense officials on its plans to build a divert airfield

on Saipan despite the CNMI's unified stand to have it on Tinian instead.

The facility is intended to accommodate cargo, attack and tanker aircraft, along with up to 700 personnel for periodic divert landings and joint military

exercises. This is seen as part of the United States' plan to bolster island bases against China's growing might.

Saipan is about 200-km north of Guam, the most substantial U.S. military

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GAO starts new minimum wage hike impact survey

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Government Accountability Office has begun working on a new CNMI minimum wage increase impact survey, even as the Commonwealth waits whether the U.S. House of Representatives will pass a bill delaying this year's scheduled 50-cent minimum wage hike on Sept. 30.

This week's congressional debate on Syria may sideline S. 256 or the CNMI wage hike delay and submerged lands bill.

GAO, the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, has an April 2014 deadline to submit its report on the CNMI's minimum wage hike impact.

Jon Fremont, senior analyst at GAO's International Affairs and Trade, reached out to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce

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Heinz's team woos Rep. Yumul, others

>> Covenant, independents weigh GOP invitation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former House speaker and would-be 2014 gubernatorial candidate Heinz Hofschneider's team has been asking some individuals—including



Yumul

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan)—to become Hofschneider's potential running mate. Meanwhile, incumbent Covenant Party members, in-

See YUMUL on Page 4

Green Gala raises over \$12K in ticket sales

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

>> 200-plus people attend 2013 Green Gala

Mother Nature had a ball last Saturday night, with the 2nd Green Gala drawing more than 200 people to the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and fundraising host Marianas Islands Nature Alliance selling an estimated \$12,000 worth of tickets.

Echoing the sentiments of many of those who attended this second edition of the Green Gala, Ed Propst said the event is a "wonderful evening for a wonderful cause."

"I came to this event to support our environmental heroes," Propst said.

"Kudos to MINA for hosting one of the best events of the year." According to MINA executive director Sam Sablan, tickets were sold out two days prior to the event but they have yet to come up with a definite dollar figure that includes money collected from donations by their major sponsors and the two auctions that were held the same night.

See GREEN on Page 4

Trash-In Fashion's Green Queen Jaqueline Maglonzo showcases a wedding motif during Saturday night's Green Gala at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Maglonzo is shown here wearing a cone shaped headdress and crafter from plastic cushion floating amongst thousands of white tissue butterflies. The gown, seen in the photo, is hand-tailored using plastic cushion.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Budget panel OKs \$123.4M 'compromise' bill. PAGE 3
NMC fills all instructor vacancies. PAGE 7

Local

CPA to commission own feasibility on Rota West Harbor

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director MaryAnn Lizama said the agency remains firm in its stance that any money invested on the port of Rota should go to the West Harbor, and not any other area such as an east harbor facility, for which a feasibility study has recently been completed.

Lizama clarified that the completed east harbor study

was commissioned by both the Rota Municipality and its legislative delegation, which planned to tap 702 funds for its development.

Lizama, along with Rota manager Martin Mendiola, disclosed that a new feasibility study—this time commissioned by CPA—will be conducted but at the West Harbor site.

It was learned that the U.S. Coast Guard recently approached CPA-Rota where a preliminary inspection was

done at the site and it offered to help do the study, at no cost to the ports authority.

Mendiola said that based on Section 1156 of the Water Resources Act of 1986, CPA can minimize the matching funds for the research project because CPA is eligible to waive up to \$200,000. It is estimated that the feasibility study for the West Harbor may cost about \$400,000 and requires a 50-50 matching funds.

"In reality, this will not in-

volve any cost to CPA," said Mendiola, adding that the feasibility targets to analyze wave actions in the West Harbor by using the modern instruments of the U.S. Army Corps.

The board, at its last meeting, approved the continued negotiation with the U.S. Coast Guard and Army Corps for the project. The study is expected to move forward once formal documents are signed by the parties.

CPA does not oppose building a new harbor on Rota but it warned the government of the project's potential impact it fails to determine ahead of time the various pros and cons. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the results of a study conducted by engineering company Moffats & Nichol has been completed and that CPA plans to get a copy of this document from the Rota municipality.

Both the Rota Legislative Delegation and the Rota municipal government are pushing for the building of a new harbor to accommodate bigger ships.

Rota's elected officials have tossed the idea of developing the east harbor due to the current challenges in shipping commodities and other supplies to Rota. The existing West Harbor has limited capability in its channel and cannot accommodate vessels longer than 235 feet. The only way for the port to be able to accommodate bigger vessels is by widening its channel opening.

The area identified for the proposed east harbor is not CPA property but is public land. Once the new harbor is built, this has to be dedicated as a port of entry before it can be operated by CPA.

Ships going to Rota currently use the West Harbor, which

CPA officials earlier described as somewhat "calmer" and "more sheltered" compared to the east side of the island.

'10 years just for permitting'

According to Benigno Sablan, seaports facility chairman and a former maritime officer, building a new east harbor on Rota will take longer than expected because the process for the permitting alone could take up to 10 years. He cited the various local and federal environmental agencies that will be involved in the process.

He also pointed out that by developing the West Harbor, this will be less expensive than developing the east harbor site.

For Rota board member Barrie Toves, improving the Rota harbor will play an important role in the economy of Rota where the cost of commodities are far higher than the two islands due to high shipping costs.

Issue on potential of legalizing handguns in NMI now moot

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has dismissed two of seven charges against Sergio M. Rangamar, a 36-year-old man accused of aiming a gun at his two cousins in Gualo Rai.

Assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty asked the Superior Court to

drop the charges of illegal possession of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition against Rangamar.

Flaherty filed an amended information that now charges Rangamar with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of disturbing the peace, and one count of criminal contempt.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted the government's request Friday.

The dismissal of the gun and ammunition charges means that the court will no longer entertain Rangamar's motion that

questioned the constitutionality of simple possession of handguns in the CNMI.

Attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for Rangamar, earlier filed a motion to dismiss the charges of illegal possession of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition. Scoggins pointed out that portions of the Commonwealth Weapons Act are unconstitutional under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Rangamar's motion prompted Camacho to direct the parties to submit supplemental briefings. He also urged interested parties to submit briefs.

Camacho said how the issue of Rangamar's motion is resolved has the potential of legalizing handguns in the CNMI.

On Friday, the OAG moved to amend the information and dismiss the two charges that Rangamar had questioned. Camacho granted the OAG's motion.

The original information charged the defendant with two

counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of disturbing the peace, and one count each of illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of ammunition, and criminal contempt.

Flaherty said that after reviewing the file and a discussion with the parties involved in this case, the government believes it is in the best interest of justice to make these changes. He said the government also believes that it would have difficulty proving each element of each charge.

He said the government has discussed these amendments with Rangamar's lawyer.

Flaherty said the government contends that this amendment will neither unduly prejudice Rangamar nor compromise the proceedings.

Police arrested Rangamar for allegedly aiming a gun at his two cousins in Gualo Rai on Jan. 31, 2013. Police recovered at the scene a 9mm semi-automatic pistol with a 9mm live round in the chamber, another live round in the magazine, seven 9mm full rounds, and five 9mm hollow point live rounds.

» OAG dismisses illegal gun, ammunition charges vs Rangamar

Funding source for credit union members still not identified

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the government's credit union program may have to wait a little longer before they can retrieve their money following admission by the Inos administration that funding to pay these refunds remains unidentified.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, who is also the credit union's board chairman, told *Saipan Tribune* that the Legislature needs to appropriate the funds for this unpaid obligation to members.

He promised that the administration will work to find the needed funds.

"We will continue working with the Legislature to seek ap-

propriation to help pay out all our members who do not have outstanding loans with the credit union," said Demapan.

As to how soon this may happen, Demapan remains uncertain. "There is no timeframe at this point," he said.

Refunds of the members' contributions were suspended since last year.

The Inos administration audited the organization early this year. It had never had any since 2008. The final draft of the independent report was recently completed and it showed that only over \$60,000 is left in the union's account.

In an earlier interview with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, he said he wants to tap the general fund to pay union members. A policy

decision is also being planned for the union after it retires its obligations.

"Once finalized, we will have a better idea how to move forward. [But] definitely, we have to make a policy decision on what we want to do with the credit union," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*. He also bared the union's long list of delinquent borrowers.

According to Demapan, the union's biggest challenge is the huge amount of delinquencies, totaling about \$575,000.

Saipan Tribune learned that about 300 members have pending requests to withdraw their contributions from the union. The audit report recently conducted covers three fiscal years: 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Authority (MVA) placed advertising in several monthly ladies magazine in Japan in August and September 2013.

The two-page, full color advertisement was planned for eight to ten magazines and promotes the exotic, crystal clear water of **Managaha**. The cost of the ad was shared by H.I.S. and the MVA.

So far this fiscal year, visitor arrivals from Japan are

nearly unchanged compared to the same period last fiscal year, approximately 120,000 visitors. Arrivals from Japan comprise 34 percent of total visitor arrivals to the Northern

Mariana Islands. Nearly all visitors to the Northern Marianas visit the iconic Managaha during their trip.

Paid for with a federal grant from the Office of Insular Affairs.



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Legislative panel OKs \$123.4M 'compromise' budget bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A six-member joint legislative panel cleared Saturday night a "compromise" \$123.4-million budget bill that the Legislature could pass this week, marking the smoothest budget process since the 2010 budget deadlock that forced a partial government shutdown.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is expected to have the budget bill on his desk before the week's end, giving him ample time to review the CNMI government spending plan before the Oct. 1 start of fiscal year 2014.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) separately confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday the compromise reached on the remaining sticky issues, including a decentralized government utility account and restoring \$290,000 for Rota.

"The conference went with the House version of a decen-

tralized government utility account except for some agencies, to hold each agency accountable for their utility use and spending. Each agency will be responsible for their account," Sablan said in a phone interview.

The House proposed a decentralized government utility account, similar to the governor's submission.

But the Senate changed this, to make it a centralized account once again totaling over \$6 million. This centralized account exempts the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Marianas Visitors Authority, among other agencies.

Because of budget differences, a conference committee tasked to work on a compromise budget was formed.

Sablan said the committee expects to have hard copies

of the compromise budget bill this morning for lawmakers' review in preparation for upcoming sessions.

The committee met until about 6pm on Friday, and met again on Saturday around 2:30pm to up to past 7:30pm.

"We were able to wrap up on Saturday night. We adopted a compromise version. It's just a matter of getting the hard copy Monday morning and then discuss it with the leadership of both houses. I hope both houses will pass it," Sablan said.

The head of House conferees, Sablan said the committee also restored on Saturday the \$290,000 Rota utility funding that the House cut and transferred to the Saipan mayor's office's "all others" budget. The Senate earlier objected to this as well.

These were in addition to the key issues resolved earlier such as the restoration of \$2 million for the Department of Public Lands' funding for homestead developments on Rota and Tinian, the restoration of \$200,000 for the Marianas Visitors Authority, and giving the governor an extra 50 positions but with no additional appropriation just in case there's a need to hire people in essential posts.

Taimanao said the smooth budget process was mainly about "give-and-take."

"The beauty about this conference was that we agreed to give and take. We had a clear vision and clear goals," she said. Taimanao is the head of Senate conferees.

Taimanao has been a member of a legislative conference committee on budget since 2010, when the Legislature was trying to pass a budget for fiscal year 2011.

That budget process was marked by deadlocks, walkouts, emotional and painstaking sessions combined with political wrangling that led to a partial government shutdown, forcing over a thousand public servants

to be temporarily out of jobs until a new budget was passed and signed into law.

"Looking back it's the smoothest budget process I've been involved in," Taimanao added.

Last year, the former governor had only about two days before deadline to review the budget that the Legislature passed at the 11th hour.

Sablan also said yesterday that the conference committee agreed to add \$10,000 to the proposed salary of an economist for the Legislature. This is a vacant position, but lawmakers plan to hire an economist either as a full-time position or on an as-needed basis.

Both Taimanao and Sablan thanked their colleagues in the

conference committee.

The House conferees include Sablan, House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian).

Besides Taimanao, the two other Senate conferees are Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Yumul said yesterday that when the committee met on Saturday, they had "a \$500,000-plus difference we had to balance."

"All members were sincere and committed to compromise and I think we achieved that. We still need the rest of the members of both houses to accept the compromise version. So I hope they will. Overall, I support the compromise bill," he added.

Murder suspect Crisostomo allowed 6 experts, \$11,900 funding

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has granted the request of attorney Janet H. King to have six court-appointed experts for the defense of Joseph A. Crisostomo, who is facing charges in the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero.

In an order Thursday, Camacho authorized a total of \$11,900 for the six experts: \$2,400 in the field of forensic pathology, \$2,000 in the field of cell phone forensics, \$2,000 in the field of forensic DNA analysis, \$1,500 in the field of forensic mitochondrial DNA

analysis, \$2,000 in the field of latent prints, and \$2,000 in the field of forensic podiatry.

Should Crisostomo require more funds to secure the services of experts for his defense, he must make additional requests, said Camacho.

The judge found that Crisostomo has made a particularized showing of how these experts will assist his defense and that denying the use of these experts may result in an unfair trial.

King made the motions requesting funds for court-appointed experts on Sept. 4, 2013.

King asserted that the appointment of a separate forensic pathologist is necessary because she requires aid in reviewing the

autopsy report and photographs.

King said the government will likely use their own expert to support the conclusion that Romero was raped, beaten, and that her cause of death was homicide.

King stated that the report and photographs contain scientific information beyond her legal expertise, for example, concerning the rate of decomposition and the position the body was when it was found.

King does not believe that simply interviewing and cross-examining the government's expert will result in fair proceedings.

King also asserted that a cell phone forensics expert is neces-

sary to aid the defense because the government intends to introduce evidence concerning the

See SUSPECT on Next Page

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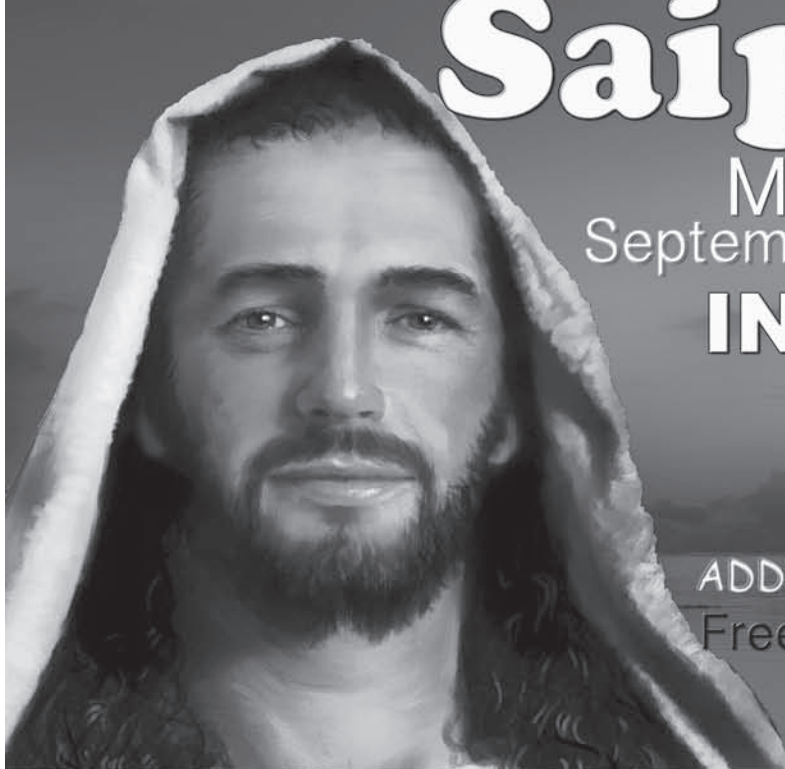
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GREEN

From Page 1

MINA's first Green Gala in 2012 raised \$40,000 in cash and in-kind contributions.

"Like many, many other non-profit agencies out there we are struggling but are trying hard. We are driven by the commitment of our volunteers to make sure that we continue as an agency," said MINA board chair Frankie Elliptico in his remarks.

Ellipticio shared that since the formation of MINA in 2005 the non-profit organization now has more than a hundred members and even more volunteers.

"It is because of these members and volunteers that our projects become successful," he added

Some of MINA's projects include the Obyan Rehabilitation Project, the Teacher Environmental Camp, the Marine Debris Prevention, Tasi Watch Project, and the

Adopt-A-Bin Project.

Ivan Ilmov, owner of Saipan Island Bath and Ceramics and a Rotary Club member, said that he chose to support the Green Gala because it's his way of contributing to the environment as a businessperson.

"A lot of my friends who live on island support this gala. So I am here to support it as well," Ilmov added.

Ilmov shared that he has been a part of many environmental awareness campaigns and events with the Rotary Club and hopes that more people take even the smallest steps toward the betterment of the islands' environment.

The evening also featured a Trash-in-Fashion show that modeled outfits made from materials that most people would consider trash: soda tabs, plastic bags, and even phone cards.

Environmental Green Awards

For its second year, MINA

recognized one individual, school, and business that demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the environment over the past years.

The Environmental Champion Award, an individual award, was awarded to Marcelina Max Aguon.

Aguon has volunteered his time since 2002 by collecting trash at the Sugar Dock and Aquarius beach areas seven times a week.

"I volunteer to make our island beautiful for tourists and for the children's future CNMI," he said.

In 2008 Aguon received the Environmental Steward award from Beautify CNMI and in 2009 a CNMI House resolution was passed commending his accomplishments.

Aguon has also worked diligently to plant over 50 trees along Saipan's shores.

Saipan Southern High School received the Environmental Heroes Award, which is given to a school whose dedication is echoed through

its students and the work they do to protect Saipan's natural resources. The school has done several beach cleanups and has participated in environmental programs in collaboration with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Coral Reef Management, and Division of Environmental Quality.

The high school was also recognized for its green farming initiative on its campus, where students grow food with a minimum impact on the environment and people's wallets.

They have also been involved in MINA's pavilion refurbishment project, "No need Bag" project and "How Long Trash Lasts" public information program.

Joeten Enterprises received the Green Business of the Year award. The award recognizes a business that acknowledges the island's environmental issues and incorporates a "green business culture" through its entire organization.

This year alone, Joeten Enterprises required all of its companies install LED lights.

Joeten also went the extra mile in reducing its ecological footprint on the environment when it started installing solar panels at all of its retail outlets. This is seen in Joeten's Kagman store where its energy costs decreased by 50 percent due to solar power.

Joeten Enterprises contin-

ues to work very closely with MINA with hopes of launching a massive public information and education program that brings awareness to the effects of plastic bags on the environment.

The enterprise has been doing its part to reduce the use of plastic bags when MINA donated over 10,000 reusable bags four years ago for its customers.

YUMUL

From Page 1

dependents, and so-called Independent-Republicans are weighing the Republican Party's invitation to reunite with the GOP.

Yumul confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that one of Hofschneider's campaign committee members approached him two weeks ago, asking whether he's interested in running for lieutenant governor in November 2014.

As of yesterday, he has not decided on the Hofschneider camp invitation.

"As of today, I am a representative candidate for Precinct 3 and an independent. Right now, I haven't considered running for lieutenant governor," Yumul said, adding that he still has to consult with his family and supporters on the matter.

Yumul also pointed out that he has not heard directly from Hofschneider, who is currently off island.

The Hofschneider camp has also reached out to other individuals to ask whether they would like to run as lieutenant governor in 2014, sources said, and these individuals include a former lawmaker, a top education official, and a former Cabinet member.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who has already confirmed his intention of running as governor for a full four-year term in 2014, said that

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) is among the few he is eyeing for a running mate.

Torres, for his part, said his priority is to work with the Inos administration in addressing pressing issues such as the NMI Retirement Fund, and to reunite the Republican Party, which Inos is a former member.

Meanwhile, the four Covenant Party members now in the House of Representatives met last week to discuss the GOP's invitation to reunite with them, but the incumbent Covenants said they are still weighing their options.

"We have not come up with a decision as a group," said Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan).

Former lieutenant governor and former speaker Diego Benavente, the vice chair of Independent Republicans, said yesterday that the IRs will meet tomorrow night "to talk about the future of the group."

"We are sticking together as a group, as a team," Benavente said.

Part of Tuesday's discussions would be the GOP's invitation to its former members such as the IRs to rejoin the group, the IR's coalition with the Covenant Party, which the GOP is also inviting to rejoin them, and the 2014 elections.

Jack Villagomez, chairman of the Republican Party, said Friday that the GOP will continue to ask former members to rejoin and make the party stronger.

DEFENSE

From Page 1

base in the region.

In case access to the U.S. base in Guam or other Western Pacific airfields is limited, then Saipan could be used by American jets.

A final environmental impact statement on the divert airfield plan was supposed to be released in August.

But both Inos and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said a possible delay in the release of the final EIS could work both ways for the CNMI—either DoD is now considering the CNMI's unified position to build the alternate airfield on Tinian or DoD is finding more reasons to move forward with a Saipan facility.

"As it stands right now, they have indicated their preference for Saipan, we have indicated our desire for a facility on Tinian. At some point, we are going

to have to sit down and talk," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in a chance interview at the MINA green gala on Saturday night at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Inos said he plans to meet with military officials himself.

"We are going to let them know we're interested in doing that. As they go through the planning process, we need to bring these options up and talk and see where we can go that would satisfy both the local community here and the objectives and the goals of the Air Force," the governor added.

Sablan said the U.S. military would need congressional approval on funding for its divert airfield plan and funding for land acquisition or lease.

Even if funding is made available, Congress could still require that such facility be built on Tinian instead, considering the CNMI's unified voice on the matter, he said.

Part of DoD's plan is to lease

33 acres of land on Saipan for 50 years for an alternative airfield in the Marianas for the U.S. Air Force in the event that access to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam is limited or denied.

There are also plans to build additional aircraft parking space, hangars, fuel storage tanks and ammunition storage facilities, as well as other improvements to Saipan's historic airfield.

The 33-acre Saipan land being eyed for military lease includes historic sites such as the pre-war Japanese airfield in As Lito.

A divert airfield could also accommodate joint and combined humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts.

The U.S. also plans to send aircraft on regular deployments to bases ranging from Australia to India as part of its bulked-up force in the Pacific.

Construction activities

CNMI was in 2011.

The new GAO survey will provide updates on the effects the minimum wage increases have had on workers and employers in the CNMI.

A 2007 federal law mandates an annual 50-cent increase in CNMI minimum wage until it reaches the federal wage floor of \$7.25 an hour.

Since 2007, the annual 50-cent hike was delayed once, in 2011.

Another delay is requested for this year but the U.S. Senate bill that would make that happen is still with the U.S. House, which is scheduled to debate a proposed military strike against Syria this week.

Congress also has to work on national budget issues, including a continuing resolution to keep the U.S. government open on Oct. 1 and beyond.

The governor said a two-day regional security roundtable hosted by the Guam-U.S.-Asia Security Alliance, or GUASA, on Thursday and Friday in Guam came at an opportune time as DoD plans to build not only a divert airfield on CNMI soil but also live-fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan.

The GUASA roundtable brought together some of the nation's top intelligence analysts and national security experts in a bid to give clarity to calls for rebalancing U.S. interests in the area.

"I was especially interested in anything that might spill over to [the CNMI] and definitely there would be," Inos said.

Inos said a divert airfield—whether on Tinian or Saipan—would require construction projects, but again, he said the CNMI would prefer that they be built on Tinian.

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are already leased to the U.S. military.

With only nine available legislative days before the end of fiscal year 2013, the minimum wage hike delay bill faces tough competition from major issues needing congressional actions.

If the U.S. House is unable to pass S. 256 in those nine legislative days, the CNMI's minimum wage will automatically increase from the current \$5.55 an hour to \$6.05 an hour on Sept. 30.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) told *Saipan Tribune* that despite this, all is not lost because they will keep on working to pass S. 256.

Just the same, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce has already called on employers to prepare for another 50-cent increase in minimum wage as the possibility of having S. 256 passed becomes smaller.

GAO

From Page 1

last week about the new round of survey.

Key CNMI employers, including large tourism-related businesses, should expect survey forms from GAO in the coming weeks.

Alex Sablan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber will cooperate and extend assistance to GAO with their report to Congress as required under U.S. Public Law 110-28 on minimum wage.

"We were disappointed that GAO was not afforded funding to prepare this report in 2013; nonetheless we will prepare to address their economic survey work for future consideration by Congress on the impact of future increases in minimum

wage in the CNMI," Sablan said.

He said the Chamber firmly believes all increases in minimum wage, as it affects the cost of doing business in the CNMI, "should come as a result of solid empirical data as the GAO has been directed under the law to gather, not simply by the fact that P.L. 110-28 schedules a scale based upon a political decision."

"As Guam Chamber [chair] Gerry Perez diplomatically stated at [Wednesday's] general membership meeting, there are unintended consequences we obviously endure, and that should be the reason the GAO now asks our assistance in gathering that empirical data," Sablan added.

The last time GAO came up with a report regarding the minimum wage increases in the

SUSPECT

From Page 3

alleged location of Crisostomo on the night Romero died based on cell phone tower activation information.

King said she needs the assistance of an expert to understand what kind of questions she should ask the government's expert to determine whether his methods are reliable and yield valid location information.

On forensic DNA analysis, King asserted that without assistance in understanding the DNA evidence, she will be unable to challenge the conclusions reached by the government's experts.

With respect to forensic mitochondrial DNA analysis, King represented that the government will rely on mitochondrial DNA analysis to link to Romero a hair recovered from the rental car Crisostomo was allegedly driving on the night

of Romero's death.

Pertaining to latent prints, King stated that she understands that a total of 16 to 18 prints were taken from the rental car and the crime scene, and that none of those prints match Crisostomo.

On forensic podiatry, King disclosed that the FBI recovered bare footprints at the crime scene and made copies of those prints using a special gel.

King also reported that the government made ink prints of Crisostomo's feet.

King requested an expert in forensic podiatry to educate her on footprint identification, and assist her in formulating the proper questions for cross-examination.

FBI agents found Romero's body at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012, two days before she was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan. Investigators learned that Romero mistook the car for a taxicab.

Mayor's office wants budget for roadkill disposal program

The Saipan Mayor's Office wants the Legislature to earmark funds that will enable it to operate a roadkill disposal program.

Mayor Donald Flores made the pitch in his comments on House Bill 18-099, which seeks to divide the responsibility of disposing roadkill between the Department of Public Safety and the Municipality of Saipan.

The bill is authored by Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan).

Under the proposal, DPS will still be responsible for removing roadkill from the

islands' roads and highways but, instead of disposing it at the landfill, it will only be required to put the animal carcass on the side of the road for the mayor's staff to pick up and dispose of.

In an Aug. 26, 2013, letter to Benavente, Flores said his office's biggest concern about the bill is fuel expenses because, unlike DPS, the Saipan Mayor's Office does not receive an annual budget to cover fuel expenses for patrolling the streets and neighborhoods of Saipan.

"We only get an appropriation to pay for our fuel



Flores

expenses, which we incur for performing our statutory responsibilities of repairing, maintaining, and improving secondary roads, delivering water, performing village cleanup, performing debris removal from public places, fa-

cilities, and villages, etc. The funds appropriated to our offices to pay for fuel expenses barely cover our annual, total fuel expenses for performing our various duties and responsibilities. Without help from the private sector, we would be severely hampered from delivering the level of services to the public as we have been."

He said that requiring the mayor's office to pick up and dispose of roadkill would increase its annual fuel cost.

"Because the amendment will give us the responsibility for disposing dead animals found on public roadways and highways this late into the current fiscal year (if the bill becomes law), and because we did not include a budget for this new, added responsi-

bility in our next fiscal year 2014 spending plan, our office would be unable to consistently carry out its new, added responsibility."

Another concern Flores cited is the safety and health of his staff when disposing of roadkill.

"Although we have our animal control vehicle, we think it will be counterproductive to assign that vehicle to go around the island to pick up roadkill, as our animal control program is a fulltime job in and by itself. We also think it will be counterproductive to assign another vehicle in our fleet to perform the task of removing roadkill."

Flores suggested amending the bill by adding a provision that would authorize the

allocation of funds for the mayor's office to use to pay for fuel expenses.

To operate an efficient roadkill pickup and disposal program, he said the mayor's office would need an annual fuel budget of around \$3,500—assuming the cost of fuel remains below \$5 gallon in the next 12 months—for a single vehicle operation.

"Although we support the intent of the bill, we want to encourage your committee to give additional serious thought about supporting our office with an annual budget to pay for fuel expenses. Without funding support to pay for our fuel expenses, implementation of the bill will be slow and a struggle for us." (Mark Rabago)

PA sues Tinian, CHC for allegedly not paying him for his services

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A physician assistant is suing the Tinian Municipality, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and former Tinian Health Center resident department head Raymond T. Dela Cruz Jr. for allegedly refusing to pay his services at the Tinian clinic.

William R. Weiss, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, is suing Dela Cruz for fraud.

Weiss is currently on temporary assignment as a civilian attached to U.S. Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Weiss asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to jointly pay him \$42,532.20. Alternatively, he asked the court to enter judgment against Dela Cruz in the same amount plus attorney's fees and court costs.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to contact Dela Cruz for comment.

In his memorandum to Weiss dated April 15, 2011, Dela Cruz, however, explained that the decision to discontinue his services was made after a series of meetings and efforts to address THC's budgetary shortfall and its inability to process any payment for services rendered, including Weiss' services.

According to the complaint, Weiss, a licensed physician assistant, was approached in November 2010 about providing medical services to the Tinian clinic.

Bellas said the parties executed a contract on Nov. 26, 2010, where Weiss would be paid at \$500 per day for an eight-hour workday and \$50 per hour for all work in excess of 8 hours per day.

Since Weiss lives on Saipan, the contract provided that he would be provided transportation to and lodging on Tinian by the employer.

Bellas said Dela Cruz executed the MOU as the resident department head.

Bellas said his client began working at the Tinian clinic from late November 2010 until April 18, 2011.

Bellas said that Weiss' ser-

vices were terminated by a memorandum dated April 15, 2011, making the termination effective on April 18, 2011.

Bellas said the memorandum was drafted by or on behalf of the resident department head, although signed by someone on his behalf and a copy was purportedly provided to the Tinian mayor and the Public Health secretary.

The memorandum, the lawyer said, admits that there were problems in getting payments made for the amounts owed Weiss.

Bellas said Weiss received only one payment for services rendered, in the amount of \$3,250 in partial payment. The payment was made on Feb. 7, 2011, and paid from the CNMI Tinian Imprest Fund.

In addition to not paying the salary promised his client, Bellas said that Weiss was also forced several times to pay for his own airfare to Tinian despite the promise that THC was supposed provide him transportation.

As of April 30, 2011, the defendants are liable to Weiss for the total unpaid sum of \$42,532.50 in unpaid compensation and expenses, Bellas said.

Bellas said that on Jan. 14, 2013, and again on July 9, 2013, he wrote demand letters to the Tinian mayor and the current THC resident department head demanding payment in full or at least a payment plan under which to liquidate this debt within a reasonable time.

Bellas said the defendants have never disputed the amount owed Weiss nor has there been any other response from defendants and no payment made.

Bellas said that Dela Cruz knew or should have known that he did not have the power or authority to hire Weiss as an employee using an MOU.

He said that when Weiss complained about the lack of due diligence by Dela Cruz in processing the excepted service contract, he was terminated effective April 18, 2011.

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NMTI board updates Inos on reorganization, plans



NMTI board members are all smiles after meeting with Gov. Eloy Inos at his office. From left are OMB's Vicky Villagomez, NMTI board member Vic Cepeda, Dante Yumul, treasurer Josephine DLG. Mesta, Rip Stephanson, board vice chair Joseph T. Torres, and board chair John "Bolis" Gonzales. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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In its continuing series of key stakeholder meetings the Northern Marianas Trade Institute's board of directors recently met with Gov. Eloy Inos to pay him a courtesy visit and to officially brief him about the reorganization of the new NMTI board, its mission, and renewed commitment to meaningfully and steadfastly augment the CNMI's efforts to replace foreign contract workers with U.S. citizens pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229, especially with the looming deadline of December 2014.

Given the keen and adept financial acumen of the governor, the NMTI board came ready to provide him with stark statistics and strategic action map that demonstrate the unambiguous, yet real policy challenge we all face in the midst of training and placing as many technically trained and soft-skill-equipped U.S. citizens in the workforce in view of an unfriendly time-frame tempered by an improving economy.

NMTI is grateful to Inos for not hesitating to meet with them, for his constructive and sensible policy concerns, and for his official blessings and support of NMTI as a sound partner in technical training and placement of able-bodied U.S. citizens in the private sector workforce.

The NMTI board met previously with 18th House Ways & Means Committee chair Rep. Tony P. Sablan and members to share the successes and challenges of NMTI since its opening in 2008. They will also schedule

stakeholder meetings with other key partners in our community, the NMTI Public School System, Northern Marianas College, NMTI Department of Labor, Workforce Investment Agency, 18th NMTI Senate, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Saipan Rotary Club, Hotel Association of the NMTI, and Society of Human Resource Management, etc.

The new NMTI board believes that no other educational institution is ideally and strategically positioned to meaningfully address the longstanding need to provide hands-on and fieldwork training and placement of U.S. resident and local employees than NMTI.

U.S. Public Law 110-229's five-year transition period to replace foreign contract workers with trained U.S. resident workforce is set to expire in December 2014.

NMTI is accredited with its construction curriculum and plans to seek and obtain corresponding certification for its tourism hospitality curriculum. Further, NMTI is set to secure requisite local and/or federal funding in order to resume offering classes and be certified and placed at hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, wholesale distributors, power plants, auto shops, and the like.

Moreover, NMTI is an eligible educational institution to receive individual and corporate tax credit contributions to augment student tuition and transportation barriers of many of its target clients. (NMTI)

Coast Guard training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Sept. 10 and 11 from noon to 2pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated above.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13° 10'N/144° 42'E, 12° 50'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/143° 00'E, 11° 45'N/143° 00'E, 12° 50'N/144° 30'E. (PR)

NMC fills instructor vacancies

The Northern Marianas College has announced that it has filled the vacant instructor positions necessitated by its implementation of the Board of Regent's new policy on minimum faculty degree requirements.

"We are pleased to announce that instructors have been secured for all of the courses and

sections that were rescheduled to start later this month on Sept. 16," according to NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D.

"Through a combination of new full-time faculty and adjunct instructors we have retained instructors that meet or exceed the minimum requirements established by the NMC

Board of Regents," said Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services.

"We are delighted at the unprecedented level of interest received in response to our recruitment efforts," said Merfalen. "I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Human Resources Office, and

specifically Nadia Camacho, our personnel specialist responsible for recruitment. If it wasn't for Nadia's aggressive recruiting activities we would not be able to report on this success."

According to Merfalen, the college has hired full-time faculty in Business, Language and Humanities, and Science Health Math & Athletics departments, and have filled in around the edges with qualified adjunct instructors as well.

"The college appreciates the flexibility shown by some of our affected faculty to step up to the plate and teach in disciplines supported by their aca-

ademic credentials," said Hart. "We especially want to recognize those who have already begun to take the coursework necessary to return to their chosen specialties. They have truly shown a commitment to both the college, and most importantly to our students."

"This accomplishment is a significant step toward reaffirmation of Northern Marianas College's accreditation, as it signifies our commitment to assurance of integrity and quality of our programs and services," Hart added. "NMC's Academic Leadership Team should be commended for their tireless efforts to restructure their departments as necessary to ensure that we are in compliance

with these new qualification requirements that truly reflect national norms in academia."

The policy on minimum faculty qualifications was adopted in response to the recommendations made by the External Evaluation Team of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges that visited the Northern Marianas College last October.

In its report, the Evaluation Team recommended: "To meet the standards and assure the integrity and quality of programs and services, the team recommends that the college develop, and consistently apply, clear criteria in determining qualifications for faculty."

This recommendation was restated in the Feb. 11, 2013, action letter signed by Dr. Barbara Beno, ACCJC president. (NMC)

Manglona orders Roberto's continued detention

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramon M. Manglona has ordered the continued detention of acting CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife director Raymond Borja Roberto, who is facing charges of soliciting sex with three female minors.

Manglona determined Friday that Roberto is not a flight risk but is still a threat and danger to the community.

Manglona said the nature of the case, Roberto's prior conviction, and the case being a matter that involves children, there is a concern of danger to the community.

On the issue of flight risk, the judge noted that Roberto has close ties in the community and that he voluntarily surrendered to police upon learning of the arrest warrant against him.

Roberto was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal. Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 17 at 9am.

In his argument for Roberto's continued detention, assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy cited the seriousness of the charges, the defendant's prior conviction on "ice" charges in federal court, and for allegedly

evading arrest. Although the defendant surrendered to police, federal agents could not locate him at his house, work, and did not answer his cell phone, Badawy said.

In opposing the motion, attorney Joaquin Torres, counsel for Roberto, cited some alleged inconsistencies in the girls' statements given to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Torres said one of the girls apparently told the FBI that her first encounter with Roberto was on March 12, 2013, when she ran away from home. The girl also allegedly stated that she and the other girls were picked up by Roberto on March 12, 2013.

Torres pointed out that on these particular dates, his client was not on Saipan as he was off island from March 7 to 15, 2013.

Torres also cited another alleged statement by one of the girls that Roberto paid her \$150, but that in another statement mentioned only \$100.

"That's the kind of evidence what we're looking at—the inconsistent statements," he said.

On the issue of flight risk, Torres pointed out that Roberto surrendered himself to police after he learned that there was an arrest warrant for him.

Torres also noted that Rober-



Hart

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PUBLIC NOTICE AMENDMENT 01

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Division Monthly Reports
- Update on CDBG Matters
- Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
- Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
 - Loans for Review and Approval

IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS

- Rota Field Office
- Tinian Field Office

V. FISCAL AFFAIRS

- Amended FY 2014 Budget
- Fiscal Division Audit Reports
- Tottotville Settlement

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

Monthly cleanup yields 900 lbs of trash

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers of PDM Promoters, Inc.'s monthly cleanup of Paseo de Marianas pose with the 900 lbs of trash they collected stowed last Saturday on the bed of a pickup truck.



PDM Promoters Inc. was at it again last Saturday, picking up trash and sprucing up the Paseo de Marianas during its monthly cleanup.

In fact, PDM Promoters' Sonia Siwa said the non-profit organization hasn't skipped a month since beginning its cleanup of the Garapan tourist district a couple of years before.

"We never skipped the monthly cleanup, this is actually the community service of PDM Promoters, Inc.," she said.

Last Saturday's cleanup started at 9am and finished at 11:30am. In all, 900 lbs of trash was collected, including the usual dried bushes, beer bottles, Styrofoam plates and cups, beer and soft drinks cans, and hundreds of cigarette butts.

The cleanup team was composed of 10 staff from Kinpachi Restaurant and the six Saipan Awaodori Team members who recently arrived from Japan where they performed with the Tokyo Tensui Group.

Also taking part was Itheyvin They's mother, Innocencia Opokunong, and her other children. Siwa said Opokunong has been a regular attendee of the cleanup.

Aside from They, the other Saipan Awaodori Team members who recently arrived from Japan are Liza Lazaro, Zacharias Sakisat, Nyla Sablan, Ronald Fitipol, and Cody Litulumar.

PDM Promoters is a community group also known for its support of the cultural dance group, the Saipan Awaodori



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori Team member Nyla Sablan and Innocencia Opokunong sweep the Paseo de Marianas during last Saturday's monthly cleanup of PDM Promoters, Inc.

Team, as well as keeping the Paseo de Marianas spick and span throughout the year.

The group's monthly cleanups collect up to 1,000 lbs of

trash. Aside from the TSL Foundation, other major sponsors of PDM Promoters are DFS Galleria Saipan and Docomo Pacific. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 9, 2005

Saipan's diesel 2nd most expensive in the nation

Saipan now has one of the highest diesel prices among all states across the nation, with the new average price of diesel higher than those of any other states except California, a development that continues to impact motorists, businesses and the Commonwealth's tourism and economy. The average price of diesel on Saipan is now \$3.294 a gallon, with Mobil and Shell increasing their fuel prices this week. At least 33 states have average diesel prices below \$3 per gallon at self-serve rates. Except for California's average diesel price of \$3.384, Saipan's rate is higher than the average diesel prices of all other states in the nation, based on yesterday's AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report. AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report is updated each business day. No data was available for U.S. territories.

Outage mars 'no-more-load-shedding' promise

Brief power outages hit certain Kagman and Garapan areas, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. experienced trouble with a newly fixed engine at the power plant yesterday morning. CUC, however, said that the problem was immediately addressed and would not necessitate load shedding, which the utility had stopped doing since Wednesday. The lights went out in Kagman around 10:30am because of a problem with one of the lubricators of Engine No. 8 at Power Plant 1, CUC power generation manager Almondo Santos said. In an effort not to disrupt school activities, CUC restored power in Kagman at 10:45am. Instead, utility personnel cut the power supply to Garapan and other villages receiving electricity from Feeder 2, the only feeder that does not provide power to a school.

September 9, 2006

4K employees stay home

An estimated 4,000 public employees had to stay home or away from their offices yesterday in compliance with the government's every other Friday austerity holiday. Yesterday was the first holiday identified in the austerity measure, Public Law 15-24. The law mandates the closure of government offices, except for critical agencies, for 26 non-payday Fridays from Sept. 8, 2006 to Sept. 27, 2007 to save on public funds. The government spends \$6 million every two weeks or per payroll. The government employs some 6,000 employees.

Mt. Carmel School opens new wing

A new wing that will house first to third graders at the Mt. Carmel School was formally opened yesterday morning, almost a month after its completion. Though some had advised the Mt. Carmel School board of directors seven months ago that it wasn't timely to construct and expand a new wing, that didn't stop the board from going ahead with the plan. In her speech during the opening and blessing ceremony at the Susupe school, school president Margaret Dela Cruz said they have "proven the naysayers wrong."

September 9, 2007

'More changes needed to enhance NMIRF's status'

An actuarial report has offered recommendations to improve the funding of the CNMI government's pension plan. A benefits freeze, reduction in the benefit formula, increase in the "normal" retirement age, review of cost of living adjustment, and a reduction in service credits are some changes the NMI Retirement Fund can make to enhance the program's financial standing, according to the report. The actuarial analysis was conducted by Hal S. Tepfer and Debbie Sylvester of the U.S.-based Cheiron consulting firm. The Fitial administration commissioned the independent study to determine the Fund's status. The study included four new public laws affecting the Fund, and made projections on the future of the Fund's finances.

US Coral Reef Task Force pledges support to NMC

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force has pledged support to the cash-strapped Northern Marianas College through funding assistance for the college's internship programs and general education. NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who had just returned from American Samoa where she attended the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force summit, said that she met with federal officials and explored the idea of educational opportunities for NMC students. The NMC president was able to secure a confirmation of \$300,000 funding for student internships and educational assistance.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NELLY DLC. BUMANGLAG, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 00-0275

-v-

LINDA DLC. TOVES, CONSOLATION :
DLC. TOVES, ANA C. DELA CRUZ, :
ANTONIO C. DELA CRUZ, RAMON :
C. DELA CRUZ, JOSEPHINE P. DELA :
CRUZ, and the Estate of MANUEL :
T. DELA CRUZ, deceased :
Defendants.

SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Judgment issued by the Court in this matter on January 26, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Tract No. 21729, situated in I-Denni, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 46,660 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2038/72, registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 7912, dated January 23, 1979.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 09-0514

-v-

SUZETTE O. SASAMOTO and :
FELIX T. SASAMOTO, JR., :
Defendants.

FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 21, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 001 G 1508, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 30, the original of which was recorded on May 11, 1994, as Document No. 94-1218, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF
THE PETITION FOR THE
APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIANS AD LITEM FOR:

JACQUEENA CABRERA
PANGELINAN,
A Minor Child,
by:

CARMEN CABRERA
PANGELINAN aka CARMEN
TUDELA CABRERA,
Petitioner.

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of Petitioner to Petition for the Appointment of General Guardian Ad Litem for said minor child, Jacqueena Cabrera Pangelinan. A hearing on Petitioner's request shall be heard on **12th day of September, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.**, at the CNMI Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Counsel for Petitioner is **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law** whose address is **P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

DATED this 5th day of September, 2013.

PATRICK DIAZ
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'TORRES BUILDING, GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-8060 Fax: 235-8070
Email: "joshuaberger711@hotmail.com"

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHO, SEONG JEO, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 13-0161C
vs. : SUMMONS
PARK JAE HYUN, :
HAN SANG EOK, :
KWON CHOON SEOB, :
MOON YOO SUK, :
AN JONG HO, :
PHILIP S. BERG :
COMPANY, LTD. and :
DAE DONG :
CORPORATION, :
Defendants.

TO: PARK JAE HYUN, HAN SANG EOK, KWON CHOON SEOB, MOON YOO SUK, AN JONG HO, PHILIP S. BERG COMPANY, LTD.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED August 29, 2013.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT 2nd Publication

CBP arrests two Guam fugitives

HAGATNA, Guam—U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at the Guam International Airport identified and arrested two individuals wanted by local law enforcement authorities. Both fugitives were attempting to depart Guam on Aug. 26.

CBP officers positively identified Dexter Long, a 52-year-old male, and Kim Choate, a 47-year-old female, as wanted persons.

Long was the subject of an active felony arrest warrant for the charges of possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, abetting prostitution and prostitution. Choate was the subject of an active warrant of arrest for charges of indecent exposure, public drunkenness, and disorderly conduct.

Long and Choate were arrested by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and turned over to the Guam Airport Police for further processing. *(CBP)*

Saipan Awaodori starts registration for 2013-2014

Fresh from its successful trip to Japan where it performed with the world-famous Tokyo Tensui Group, the Saipan Awaodori Team is now accepting new members for the 2013-2014 season.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters, Inc., which essentially bankrolls the group, said registration is currently ongoing for old and new members.

Registration forms are available at the Koblerville Youth Center. It is also the place where the Saipan Awaodori Team practices every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

Children who live far from Koblerville but are interested in becoming a member can go to the Kinpachi Restaurant before practice where transportation is available going to the southern village.

The Saipan Awaodori Team's first orientation for the 2013-2014 season is on Wednesday, Sept. 11, beginning 3:30pm.

The Saipan Awaodori Team was formed in 2006 and is affiliated with the Tokyo Tensui Group. It regularly performs in the local Awaodori Festival in April when the Tokyo Tensui Group visits Saipan.

During the local festival the head of the Tokyo Tensui Group, *rencho* Yukihiro Iwanami, gets to choose who among the Saipan Awaodori Team members will join the trip to Japan in July and August for the annual Obon festival.

Like the registration for the Saipan Awaodori Team, the cost for members chosen to go to Japan is free.

For more information about the Saipan Awaodori Team, call Kinpachi Restaurant at 233-7715 and look for either Sonia or Prescy. *(Saipan Tribune)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pre-retirement training for reservists

The 63rd Regional Support Command and 9th Mission Support Command, Theater Support Group, U.S. Army Reserve, are scheduled to host a pre-retirement training brief event for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers, Sept. 21, at the Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe. Presenters from military service centers, Veteran Affairs and various military transition organizations will discuss topics about TriCare/dental options, VA and educational benefits, retirement pay, and much more as they pertain to Guard and reserve soldiers. Registration is from 7:30am to 8am. Briefing is from 8am to 5pm.

To register, visit <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=167136&k=036745087851>. Point of contact for TSG Detachment Marianas is SFC Joe M. Falaminiano at (670) 322-6671 or Joe.m.falaminiano.mil@mail.mil. *(PR)*

DOJ awards \$723K to Guam bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Justice awarded \$723,460 in federal financial assistance to the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Planning. The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program funds the prevention and control of crimes based on the local community's specific conditions and needs.

"The Guam Bureau of Statistics and Planning will use this grant to support many components of the criminal justice system, such as violent crime, sexual assault, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement, and technology improvement with the goal of preventing and reducing violence and crime in our island community," said Delegat Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU). "It is unfortunate that in such a small, close-knit community, there is an increasing number of crimes. It is my hope that Guam will see a reduction in violence and crimes as a result of this crime prevention grant program." *(PR)*

Registration for ukulele class extended to Sept. 11

The registration for the 2013 Summer Ukulele Lessons at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has been extended to Sept. 11. The ukulele class, which is from Sept. 12 to Oct. 31, is open to children 8 years or older and adults and encompasses eight hours. It costs \$50 and will be held from 4pm to 5:30pm every Thursday. Registration is on a first-come, first-paid basis. For more information about the 2013 summer ukulele class, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe or call 235-7316 or 235-7322-23, fax 235-7550. *(PR)*

Kagman clinic now open Saturdays

In order to be more accessible to the community, the Kagman Community Health Center is opening its doors for services on Saturday mornings from 8am to 12pm beginning Sept. 7, 2013. Regular clinic hours from Monday to Saturday are 8am to 4pm and closed on Sunday. Walk-ins are welcome depending on availability. Patients with appointments are given priority to be seen. To make an appointment or to get information, call 256-KCHC (5242). More information about KCHC is available at its website at www.kagmanchc.org. *(PR)*

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 07-0021

-v- :

JOHN ALDAN ARRIOLA, :
Defendant. :

NINTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 034 L 129, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299; and Lot 034 L 130, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS check No. 34 L 21, recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Perry John P. Tenorio
P.O. Box 501233
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 233-2224

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of) FCD GU
The Petition for the) CIVIL ACTION
Appointment of Guardian) NO. 13-0380
Ad Litem:)

Pedro David) NOTICE OF
Maratita Tenorio) HEARING

)
A Minor Child,)

)
By:)

Perry John P. Tenorio)
Petitioner)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 03, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

Dated this 5th day of September, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz

Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court



IS LOOKING FOR

Our Saipan Office

Airport Representative (10)

- Valid CNMI driver's license required, knowledge in Japanese/Chinese/Korean language is preferred

Guest Service Representative (10)

- Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, previous experience in hospitality industry preferred

Our Tinian Business Site

- **Accounting Clerk (2)** - Previous experience in accounting preferred

- **Computer Technician (MIS) (1)** - Minimum 2 years experience.
- Formal training/education is strongly preferred

- **Bar Attendant (4)** - Minimum two years experience

- **Storekeeper (2)** - Must be able to lift and carry weight up to 50lbs

- **Waitstaff (Waiter/Waitress) (20)**

- **Lifeguard (2)** - Lifeguard Certification is required

- **Cooks (Cantonese Cuisine (3), Korean Cuisine (3), Western Cuisine (3))**
Minimum 2 years culinary experience, formal training /education in culinary arts is strongly preferred

- **Housekeeping Attendant (20)**

- **Engineering Staffs**
A/C Technician (2), Plumber (2), Electrician (2), Mechanic(2), Carpenter (2)
Minimum 2 years experience, formal training/education is strongly preferred

- **Cage Teller (7)**
Must have strong mathematical and money handling skills, minimum 2 years experience as Bank Teller or Cashier type occupation is preferred

- **Surveillance Operator (2)**
Minimum 1 year experience as Surveillance or CCTV operator

- **Security Officer (10)**
Must pass Physical Fitness Test

- **Guest Relation Officer (10)**
Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, must have excellent people skills.

- **VIP Host (10)**
Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, knowledge of casino games, minimum 2 years experience in Casino industry

- **Casino Dealer (60)***
1 year experience as Casino Dealer

* Interested applicants without experience may qualify for the Casino Dealer Training Program. Minimum of 10 qualified applicants.

Minimum qualification requirements for all positions listed

At least 18 years of age. High school graduate or equivalent.
Authorized to work in the US. Must be able to work flexible hours and night shift.
Good customer service, communication and interpersonal skills.

Employment Application Forms are available at

2/F Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

or request through e-mail - tdh.hrd@pticom.com / Fax - (670) 328-1106

For Saipan Applicants - e-mail or fax to request and submit Application Form.
Completed application form and all necessary requirements must be submitted on or before **September 11, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m.**
Incomplete application will not be accepted

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 179Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Stand firm against chemical weapons

The following editorial appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Friday, Sept. 6:

For a war-weary nation still feeling the tragic effects of two hard-fought foreign conflicts, the very thought of intervening militarily in another nation's chaos should give us pause.

And that is exactly what is happening as Americans of all walks of life—from those meeting on Capitol Hill to the ones gathered around kitchen tables and water coolers—debate whether the United States should strike at the Syrian regime in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack on its own people.

The president, who undoubtedly has the authority to make such a decision unilaterally, wisely yielded to pressure from members of Congress to seek their approval before launching a strike. The deliberations in the House and Senate are underway, with a decision expected sooner than later.

Having presented his reasoning for such intervention to lawmakers, President Obama must now make his case to the American people who, in turn, will determine for themselves whether to support or reject the notion.

As citizens of the most powerful nation on the planet, one that historically has defended the weak and liberated the oppressed, the people of the United States must decide on which side of history they want to be counted. They should choose the side of right, which means backing the proposed limited assault—without sending in troops—on Syrian war machinery and its supporting infrastructure.

Of course, with Iraq and Afghanistan as gloomy backdrops for any deliberations about waging more wars, Americans have the right to be skeptical about expressed motives, leery of announced goals and apprehensive about promised “limited” involvement.

But unlike Iraq, we know that Syrian President Bashar Assad has turned weapons of mass destruction on his own people. Two weeks ago he launched an attack using the highly toxic nerve gas, sarin, killing more than 1,400, including some 400 children.

It was an act this country, and the civilized world, said could not be tolerated and must be answered with force. The questions: To what degree of force and for exactly what intent?

There is no way the United States can fix what's broken in Syria, a country where 100,000 people have been killed during this 2-year-old conflict that began as peaceful demonstrations to oust Assad and replace him with a democratic government.

Around 6.2 million people have now been displaced; more than 2 million (including a million children) are living in refugee camps outside the country.

What the U.S. can do is send a powerful message that the use of chemical weapons, by Assad or anyone else, will not be tolerated. A strike using Tomahawk cruise missiles, most likely launched from Navy vessels in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, could deliver a blow to Assad's forces, preventing them from staging another chemical attack.

While not designed to force Assad from office or change the course of the war for the rebels, such an assault could be an advantage to those resistance fighters who have lost ground recently in their battles with the regime.

Congress is right to ask the hard questions and demand explanations of how the military intervention will be executed, com-

See **CHEMICAL** on Next Page



Hope for brighter tomorrow?

Most reasonable folks know this government is bankrupt! We're no longer sitting at the edge of a fiscal cliff, but have taken a nosedive while quizzing what we already know—questioning our own awareness—amidst the deepening mess.

Nonetheless, is it reason to despair? I've sifted through painful changes pondering if the fiscal collapse is the end of our economic future. Specifically, is the decline permanent or one that offers brighter tomorrows wrapped in transition?

Definitely dizzying, isn't it? What's your assessment of the future and are you optimistic that there's a silver lining somewhere in the blue skies of paradise? Are we headed down the road to positive change rather than the deafening disorientation of fiscal collapse?

Indeed, we've gone from an agrarian community to an economy highly reliant on government and tourism. We seem to be in the midst of some dramatic transition to new technological and political order. Technology will drive the changes now descending, its future defined by decisions to foster emphasis on science and technology. It hasn't been defined as yet.

Most importantly, the cultural foundation of these isles, our unique family life, will remain intact. This provides for the continuous thread linking our past, present, and future aspirations. It is further supported by our deeply rooted orientation toward personal and economic freedom. It's a prerequisite to dismantling the reliance on federal handouts. We're better off building a better, freer, and more prosperous NMI as the permanent economic pillar and foundation.

An unlikely scenario but I am convinced we shall someday conquer resetting our button to making a difference for no one else but our children. Can't acquiesce complacency that only feeds upon fatal uncertainty.

Future: Convention of states

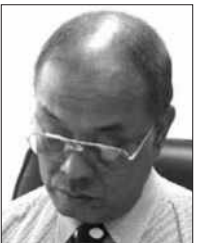
Mark Levin, a constitutionalist, has written a book, *The Liberty Amendments*, promoting the idea of a convention of states (not a constitutional convention). His goal is “to restore it [constitution] with specific, defined amendments intended to re-establish the proper balance between the power of the government and the liberty of its citizens, with due emphasis on the latter.

“He is not arrogantly presuming to improve on the ineffable work of the Framers in crafting ‘the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man’ but humbly calling on his fellow patriots to recognize that we have strayed from the principles they enshrined in the Constitution and join him in his effort to advance the necessary correctives.

“The Framers didn't meet in Philadelphia in the 18th century with the burning desire to pass super-legislation to codify an ideological political agenda to establish fundamental rights in health care or education, and they certainly didn't want to guarantee, by law, certain economic outcomes,” noted David Limbaugh, a national columnist. “They were determined to design a system of government

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



that would maximize individual liberties. That would require establishing a government strong enough to protect citizens from domestic and foreign threats but no stronger than that, for they knew that historically, unchecked, tyrannical governments had been the enemies of freedom.

“Their challenge was to find that optimal balance between the power of government and individual liberties, so they created a system that divides and diffuses power between the national and state governments (through a system of federalism) and between coequal, competing branches of the federal government (the separation of powers), which hold one another in check.

“What constitutionalists understand is that upholding the integrity of the Constitution and its designed system of limited government is essential to preserving our liberties, and usurpations of power by all three branches of government and by an out-of-control, unaccountable administrative bureaucracy have imperiled them. Constitutionalists abhor abuses of power by any and all branches, irrespective of the substantive political agenda being served by such usurpations.”

It's an event gathering up storm nationwide that we must follow critically to see if we could hitch our interest, i.e., the State of Aloha, to advance bringing meaningful working relationship with our national government over the scrappy way it has treated territories and other possessions.

Exciting rebuke from voters

It was last year in November when voters awakened, took the bull by the horns, and sent a powerful rebuke against the growing statist regime (dictatorship) under impeached former governor Nigno Fitial. What a humiliating exit forced by voters saying, “No mas!”

Though Fitial's impeachment has subsided, it seems a dormant program of fireworks explode like A-bombs into the blue skies of paradise every so often. It's like an overgrown and ugly ward Republicans and Covenant find difficult burying.

The powerful residue of voters' rebuke of corruption in government is still very, very powerful. I could still smell the sweet scent of “No mas” in the air all over the archipelago. It's exciting to say the least.

Last year's rebuke is the beginning of voter sentiment taking center stage on the previous and future elections in these isles. I'm at

See **HOPE** on Next Page

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Desk audit

Any human resources manager or director in any of the autonomous agencies, including that of OPM, should have a thorough knowledge and ability to perform desk audits of positions in their respective jurisdiction. Desk audits is an essential function involving research, analysis, determination, and documentation of the responsibilities, knowledge, skills, and abilities related to a position for classification, organizational, or related purposes. As a matter of fact, this procedural work in any human resources office in the CNMI government is so basic that any competent human resources manager or director would be able to perform this essential job content even while sleeping.

The news release showing a desire by CPA to outsource the work to a local vendor is just appalling to practitioners familiar with public human resource management work. If any human resource

official at the managerial or supervisory level is lacking this basic skill and expertise, that person has no business being in that position. The revelation that CPA’s human resource office is incapable of performing this basic human resource function would indicate that the level of knowledge of the human resource office in CPA is unsatisfactory or inadequate, and may demonstrate that the human resource management system of CPA may have other hidden issues and anomalies below the surface.

Desk audit is essential for position reclassification and allocation, reorganization, job evaluation and compensation review, and establishing of new classifications. Any human resource office in any autonomous agency or corporation in the CNMI government is not just a venue for pushing papers such as notices of personnel action. If a basic function such as a desk audit is

not a part of the routine work responsibility of any human resource manager or director, then such current managerial level employee in fact is not contributing to their employer’s ongoing objectives. The problem here is actually not more about desk audits, but a need to perform a desk audit on all human resource manager or director positions utilized by the CNMI government. We can find out only if one investigates, and that is through a desk audit. Frankly, if there is a problem, only those who know the process and procedure would expertly arrive at the findings and conclusions. Lastly, a desk audit when completely done, we should know that spade is spade and no other thing.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Leave Article 12 alone

I really don’t know why Article 12 is a problem to business investors here in the Commonwealth. It has always been an issue. The population of the people in the CNMI is increasing and there are lots of yes and no ideas. If I think about Article 12, I remember the Indians’ reservation territory. Their culture and landmark must be respected and that no one can interfere. Even the U.S. government cannot interfere. Please correct me if am wrong but if these people can have what they want, then why bother Article 12? CNMI descent are people too. We have our way of living that carry on from generation to generation. Every state in the U.S. has its own laws to follow. Seriously, those Con-Con delegates, back when they created the Constitution of the Commonwealth, they had a reason why Article 12 is important to the CNMI descent.

If Article 12 is an issue for business investors, then they should have complained before when the economy was still good. Now the economy is in limbo, they make an issue of Article 12. In my opinion what we need here in the Commonwealth is a group of highly educated people who will study our economic crisis. I think we all forgot or realized why our economy is in a bad shape. Let me refresh our memories:

1. The shut down of garment factories and minimum wage hike.
2. The price of gasoline is increasing.
3. The power rate starts to build up, especially with the implementation of the surcharge.
4. Nikko Hotel shut down its business operation with the pullout of Japan Airlines.
5. Contract workers are blamed for their remittances to their

countries.

In my point of view, these problems dragged business investor away, not Article 12. Maybe our economy is meant to be in this situation. Another factor that I believe caused our economic situation to go down are our past lawmakers, they created mistakes.

In closing I would like to say three things to the Commonwealth about what I learned in 7th grade. No. 1: They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. No. 2: The people are the only sure reliance for preservation of our liberty. No. 3: Fear produces symptoms of the disease we fight.

Ray Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Failed assaults

This is in response is to the two letters from John S. DelRosario Jr. and Francisco R. Agulto. John, you totally distorted what I said about the \$20 million that was free money from the feds to get the ferry. *If* you had read my letter objectively you would have noted that I took credit for the *more recent idea* for a complete ferry system to all the islands. If you want to give the idea to Mr. Stewart it’s your prerogative but I was the one to get the government to really do something about the idea. Saying it and getting it done are two different things. Why are you injecting something that Mr Stewart said 23 years ago in a book I never read? Readers can see you just don’t want to give me credit and admit that the *recent* idea for a complete ferry service industry didn’t materialize until Ambrose M Bennett pushed the issue and you can’t take that away from me. John, Leonardo da Vinci drew the first helicopter but do we give him credit for the Black Hawk helicopter we use today? See how crazy you sound injecting something 23 years old that didn’t materialize until now because of me! Why can’t you respect people and give credit where credit is due,

regardless if you like the person or not. Please get your facts straight, stop being so resentful of simple constructive criticism and learn to appreciate people who are trying to help all of us, you included.

As for Francisco R. Agulto’s letter, it was to be expected as most readers know he loves to attack me anyway. It was also obvious he was taking up for John DelRosario, which is why I called it an assault when it takes two or more to gang up on one person. Asking me to literally prepare a brief on the ferry issue is ridiculous when there is an ongoing feasibility study that will prove I was right in the end about the capacity of the ferry service to totally transform the CNMI’s commerce and tourism for the better. I keep telling readers that time is on my side but Fransico doesn’t get it because the feasibility study will prove I was right.

FYI, I have done my homework and talked with Mr. Tom Camacho who is overseeing this issue and the people at DPW responsible for the feasibility study and I am in full agreement with them. The CNMI does need to know how and what is best for a ferry operation

as it will do us no good if we don’t know how to operate the business successfully. You also need to know that Mr. Camacho does agree that the *Susitna* is a good deal, especially if the CNMI could get most of the \$20 million transferred to fuel and operation cost. But I have to agree with him that we must put first things first and wait. As for Francisco’s claim that no one wants the ferry, he needs to know that anyone can’t get the ferry under the same free conditions that we could with a federal grant. Only state level governments could apply and most of the states are landlocked and the states using ferries already have ferries and better options already in place. So do your homework first, Francisco, before you start ganging up on someone about something you apparently know nothing about from the questions you asked. You and John need to stop acting like newspaper bullies, as most readers can read between the lines.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Ironic

The remarks of Gerald S. A. Perez, chairman of the board of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, on the “unintended consequences” of the restriction on landownership in Article 12 are ironic when you consider the promises made to native Hawaiians in the 19th century about the benefits of changing their system of land tenure. Most of the benefits went to immigrants, and the natives were alienated from their landed

wealth and became an impoverished minority in their own home.

Fee simple ownership fails to recognize and protect the interests of diverse family members in the land. In most Pacific Islands societies, land is owned not by individuals but by corporations based on familial relations. Formalizing those relationships and rights in law could give the family corporation the power to negotiate long-term

arrangements, even sales, while protecting the affected people.

Check out my longer essay on land tenure at <http://archives.pireport.org/archive/2012/July/07-24-cm.htm>.

Jim Hess
Irvine, Calif.

Secondhand smoke

Dear people of the CNMI: Last Wednesday on a payday I entered a poker establishment to try and save a family member from finishing his paycheck. To my surprise, the establishment was full of people, mostly late 30s and below. There were few my age. Of these people, about eight or more were smoking, taking advantage of the free cigarettes being given to players. In only five minutes that I was inside, covering my nose with my shirt, I started feeling a burning pain pressing down my throat

and shortness of breath. My eyes felt tight and foggy. I told my husband that we should leave and I immediately went out to catch a breath of clean air. My husband said that even he felt suffocated from the too much smoke indoors and with no open ventilation to let the smoke out. Since Wednesday up until today, I’m still having short breath from that experience.

And because of that I Googled secondhand smoking and public laws for secondhand smoke. To my surprise I learned a lot

from this. I learned that heart disease is not caused by poor diet only but also by secondhand smoke. My sister-in-law and my nephew who died of heart attack could have been victims of secondhand smoking. I want everyone to help me take up these concerns with our leaders.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

CHEMICAL

From Page 10

plete with an exit strategy. But once the

talking has stopped, it will be time to act. Members of Congress, including the Texas delegation, should support this action by backing the president as they would any other president who has

pledged the nation’s might and moral authority in contesting an immoral act by a despot. There will be representatives and senators whose consciences compel

them to cast a “no” vote. But once Congress approves, as it is likely to do, then it is imperative that all Americans join together as they have on past occasions when the country en-

gaged in military action. Even if no other allies join the fight, Americans should stand united.

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HOPE

From Page 10

least bullish about it. You can sense the nascent awareness, you can sense the

boundless enthusiasm, and can sense the growing people power taking center stage. More than this, I’m excited about the possibilities reshaping governance. That is by far the more important sig-

nificance of voter discontentment. All 15,000 who wanted change did it successfully too! Their luminous vote is an unerring registration and powerful protest against perceived corruption and injustices growing into tentacles






crawling out of the highest office here. The voice of reason unleashed new possibilities hailing from governance. It is the people themselves saying they may no longer be removed from the equation, they are not just passive ob-

jects of government action, they are initiators of change too, they are shapers of their destiny too, they are pavers of fostering a level playing field in economic prosperity and opportunities too. It’s the beginning of something big!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼75
Yap	Showers	▲89 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼81

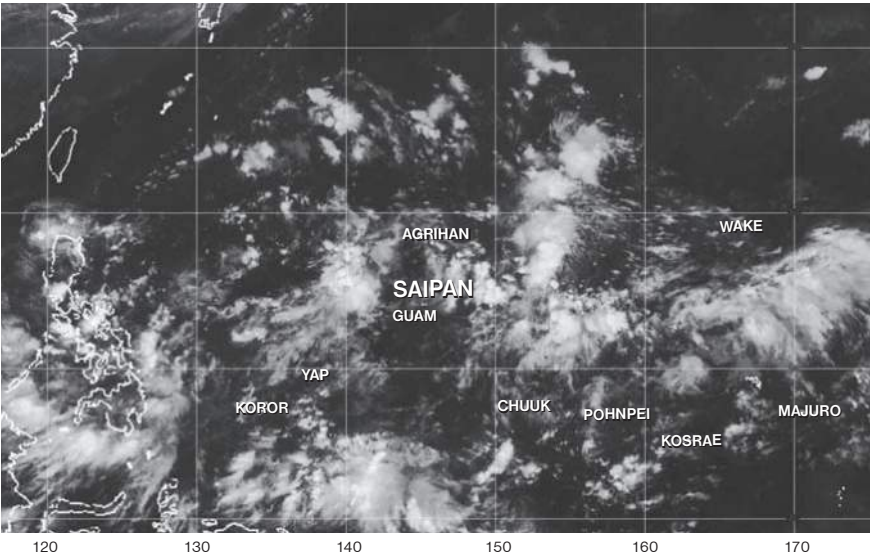
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼57
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▼60
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼79
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87 ▼74
London	Showers	▲65 ▼53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲63 ▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼77
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼59
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼74
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼52
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲80 ▼72
Rome	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼68
Salem	Sunny	▲83 ▼61
San Francisco	Sunny	▲81 ▼64
Seoul	Cloudy	▲79 ▼66
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼73
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲78 ▼67

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:09 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:52 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough enters the discussion area near 9N130E and extends to 12N141E. Convergence along and north of the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Yap between 10N and 18N from 133E to 143E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Palau between the equator and 6N from 131E to 150E. A surface trough extends from 1N152E to 9N153E to 14N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found north of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 10N and 15N from 151E to 159E. Wind-flow convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near and east of the Marianas Islands between 15N and 20N from 146E to 155E and over Minami Torishima between 20N and 25N from 151E to 158E. A surface trough stretches from 9N162E to 18N176E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found north of Kwajalein and Majuro within 300 miles east and west of the trough axis. Low-level convergence east of the trough is producing scattered showers northeast of Majuro between 8N and 13N from 175E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:02 AM	8:58 PM
Tuesday	9:59 AM	9:47 PM
Wednesday	10:56 AM	10:40 PM
Thursday	11:55 AM	11:36 PM
Friday	12:53 PM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:50am 5:40am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:35am 9:25am Daily UA5074 11:20am 12:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5073 10:00am 10:50am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) OZ1077 4:50am 7:10am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:25pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5062 2:40am 3:15am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:10am 10:45am 6
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) DL583 5:50am 8:30am 2, 5, 6	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:45am 4:20am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 11:15am 11:50am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ1119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily OZ1087 10:00pm 2:25am+1 2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN DL582 8:30pm 1:00am+1 1, 4, 5
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ612 3:40am 7:20am Daily OZ1119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:30pm 6:55pm Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:05pm 1:55am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 8:50am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ605 8:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ611 9:10pm 2:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV) SYL9950 6:40pm 1:30am+1 7	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:20am 11:05am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:50am 11:05am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:50am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:05am 10:05pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:35am 4:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM US5074/PR111 11:20am 4:35pm 1, 5, 7 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:10pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:30pm 10:45pm Daily via ICN	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:20am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM OZ604/745 3:30pm 10:40pm Daily via ICN	KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN SYL9949 12:45pm 5:20pm 7
	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN PR110/UA5072 7:55am 6:25pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 8:00am 12:50am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:45pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN UA184/5071 11:35pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:10pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:10pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:45pm 8:05am+1 1, 5 via GUM UA180/5071 10:50pm 8:05am+1 3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

2nd Annual Green Gala

Photos by THOMAS MANGLONA II



Saipan Southern High School representatives, Joeten Enterprises representatives, and Marcelina Aguon pose for a photo with the MINA board of directors.



Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero and Gov. Eloy Inos pose for a photo at the 2nd annual Green Gala fundraiser.



From left, Green Gala emcee Curtis Dancoc and attendees Ed Propst and his wife Daisy pose for a photo.



Senate President Ralph Torres, center, is flanked by other public officials at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.



"Absolute 3" play music for guests at the 2nd annual Green Gala fundraiser.



From left Nicole Schafer, CRM education and outreach coordinator, Laila Y. Boyer, Rotary Club president, and her sister Suaad.



Guests fill the cavernous Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan for the 2013 MINA Green Gala.



MINA board of directors. ▲

Marcelina Max Aguon, 2013 MINA Environmental Champion recipient, receives his award from Gov. Eloy Inos.



MINA volunteers, board members, and program participants pose for a picture on stage.

MINA's Trash-in-Fashion Show

Photos by THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



The eight models take center stage for one final look at their trash-in-fashion outfits.



Trash-in-Fashion Green Queen Jaqueline Maglonzo showcases a wedding motif with a cone shaped headdress and crafter from plastic cushion floating amongst thousandths of white tissue butterflies. The gown, seen in the photo, is hand tailored using plastic cushion and is decorated with diamond studs.



Best Male Ensemble Gabriel Paulo Reyes models his outfit made mostly from wood shavings.



Christine Ann Esteves models her originally designed "paper fan" gown from old catalogs, newspapers, and magazines.



Best Female Ensemble Abigail Nasangas models her dress made of 675 plastic flowers, plastic food containers, milk cartons, and positive film from the printing shop.



Marianas High School student Diana Pangelinan models a dress that includes some pieces from a bouquet.



AlumKnight Anne Gelika Elenzano models her originally designed outfit made entirely of phone cards.



Marianas High School's John John Capuyon models an "ancient Aztec warrior" costume that is made mostly of Styrofoam, trash bags, and gift wrappers.



Ginny Wu models a clubbing outfit made of old cartridge tapes, 100 yards of thread from rice sacks, soda tabs, and yarn.

IACF project boosts production of Solomons coffee exporter

SUVA, Fiji—Varivao Holdings Ltd., a coffee exporter from the Solomon Islands, has significantly improved its production level with support from the European Union and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the EU-funded Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade project.

Varivao Holdings managed to double its coffee production in 2012 when IACF first stepped in to provide the company with technical and business development assistance.

As a local enterprise from the Hograno district of Ysabel province, Varivao Holdings is one of the 44 enterprises currently being supported in the Pacific under the IACF project. The project is aimed at strengthening the export capacity of Pacific countries and territories in the primary industries of agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and livestock.

Before IACF's assistance, Varivao Holdings coffee production stood at just above 2,000 kg in 2011. This figure increased to around 4,700 kg the following year. In 2013, Varivao Holdings expects production to be even higher than before.

"We expect to produce around 5,500 kg of coffee this year. By 2015, we are forecasting an increase to about 10,000 kg valued at around FJD 500,000 in sales," said Dudley Longamei, general manager of Varivao Holdings.

It was a completely different story a couple of years back, said Longamei, when Varivao



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dudley Longamei, general manager of Varivao Holdings, and IACF team leader Samu Turagacati shake hands during the handover of machines as part of IACF's assistance.

Holdings struggled to process coffee for the export market; all that has changed with IACF's intervention.

He says that support from the IACF project has contributed immensely to the success of his company.

To help Varivao Holdings process quality coffee, IACF has provided machines worth around SBD 200,000. This includes a coffee huller, roasting

machine, and grinder.

IACF's assistance has not only helped boost production,

but it has also improved the flavor of the coffee sold by Varivao Holdings since the introduction

of the machines.

"The assistance provided by IACF has been a real boost. Through IACF, we have been able to take our coffee production and processing to the next level in order to better serve our markets," said Longamei.

IACF's partnership with Varivao Holdings has been described by IACF team leader Samu Turagacati as a practical and effective one, in terms of strengthening the market and increasing the production base through farmer cluster groups.

"The choice made by IACF to support and partner with Varivao Holdings is an example of a winning combination that is contributing to the growth of the coffee industry in the Solomon Islands," he added.

Today Varivao Holdings is a leading coffee buyer and processor in the country. While the company has its own coffee farms, it also buys green coffee beans from coffee suppliers in the Guadalcanal, Isabel, South Malaita, and Choiseul provinces. This is to supplement its rising production numbers to respond to the rapidly increasing demand.

Longamei explained that his

company helps coffee farmers by providing them with a source of income, as well as employment for those involved in running operations at the factory.

Turagacati says that coffee producers in the Solomon Islands can take advantage of Varivao Holdings' existing supply chain, adding that, support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the coffee industry in the Solomon Islands, as well as the IACF project, will help the company grow from strength-to-strength in the expansion of its markets.

Varivao Holdings has about 32 field workers, three office staff, and six factory workers. The company has even employed its own agriculture staff to carry out trainings for farmers and conduct quality assurance checks.

Longamei thanked EU and SPC for their support through the IACF project and said that his company looks forward to continue working with IACF.

Apart from coffee, Varivao Holdings is also manufacturing other products, such as dried kava chips and roots, cured vanilla beans and peanuts. (SPC)

Naval Base Guam to participate in Citadel Pacific

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will conduct Exercise Citadel Pacific 2013 on Sept. 10-12.

This annual exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security forces to respond to threats to the installation and units. CP13 is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise.

There is the possibility of increased patrols on and around the base as a result of this

planned exercise. Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal base operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. Area residents may also see increased security activity associated with the exercise.

During the exercise, personnel and visitors traveling to and from the Navy installation may adjust their schedules to accommodate any possible delays. (PR)



Feds Feed Families in Guam

By JOANNA DELFIN
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HAGATNA, Guam—Sailors from the U.S. Naval Base Guam Chapel delivered more than 400 lbs of donated nonperishable food items to the local food shelter Kamalen Karidat in Hagatna, Guam, on Sept. 5, 2013, as part of the Department of Defense-wide Feds Feed Families campaign.

Military members, dependents, families, and DOD civilian employees on island donated more than 21,000 lbs of nonperishable food items to Guam's local charitable organizations, including Kama-

len Karidat and the Salvation Army shelters, during the campaign from June 1 to Aug. 28.

Religious Programs Specialist 1st Class Yegor Kasatkin said he was glad to participate in the annual event and give his part to the local community to help those in need.

"It's definitely a pleasure to be part of this initiative," he said. "I am not the only one who did this; I would not be able to succeed without the help all of the armed forces and the tenant commands that supported us."

Kasatkin said that programs such as Feds Feed Families allow local communities to see how the military helps not only

protect our nation but to nourish it as well.

"It reflects good on the Navy," he said. "It is the force for good."

Kamalen Karidat general manager Deacon Frank Tenorio accepted the donation from the servicemembers and said he was very grateful for the generous contribution from the DOD community.

"The military are so kind in coming in voluntarily," he said. "They could do other things after their working hours. They are doing a lot of things for the island on their off time so we're very thankful for the military's action in caring."

Tenorio added that since the

food kitchen opened more than 10 years ago, the military has been a great contributor to the organization donating food, supplies, and even their time to serve dinner at the facility.

"When the military [is] doing this they find some commonness with the local community," he said. "It shows the reality...as if the military is not isolating themselves from us."

The annual Feds Feeds Families campaign is a voluntary effort undertaken by federal employees to bring nonperishable food items to their offices for distribution to local food banks. In 2012, the federal government totaled 7.3 million lbs of food items.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



On this special day, as you celebrate your birthday, may it be as warm as the memories we share, as bright as the happiness you bring, and as special as the kind of sister you are! Happy 10th birthday to you, my wonderful sister Brinae Jessilyn! I love you always! Greetings come from Heaven Agnes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Goro Rai, you are a wonderful father, grandfather, and great-grandfather! Here's a special, big 76 birthday wish for you! We love you so much, you cutie boy! Happy 76th birthday! Greetings come from your bloodlines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Why fewer Americans are working

WASHINGTON (AP)—The drop in the unemployment rate in August to a 4 1/2-year low was hardly cause for celebration. The rate fell because more people stopped looking for work.

More than 300,000 people were no longer working or looking for a job. Their exodus shrank the so-called labor force participation rate—the percentage of adult Americans with a job or seeking one—to 63.2 percent. It's the lowest participation rate since August 1978.

Once people without a job stop looking for one, the government no longer counts them as unemployed. That's why the unemployment rate dropped to 7.3 percent in August from 7.4 percent in July even though 115,000 fewer people said they had jobs.

If those who left the labor force last month had still been looking for work, the unemployment rate would have risen to 7.5 percent in August.

"Pretty disappointing," said Beth Ann Bovino, U.S. chief economist at Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. "You saw more people leave the job market and fewer people get jobs. Not a good sign."

Back in 2000, the participation rate hit a high of 67 per-

cent. At the time, women were pouring into the labor force. But women's participation fell modestly through the mid-2000s—then dropped sharply from late 2009 through 2013.

Women's participation rate was 57 percent last month, down from a peak of 60 percent in 2000.

For men, the participation rate fell last month to just below 70 percent—its lowest point on records dating to 1948. Men's participation peaked in 1949 at 87 percent and has declined gradually in the decades since.

In a 2011 report, the Congressional Budget Office noted that the recent drop in women's participation was particularly steep among those with dependent children and well-educated women married to high-earning men.

Another factor in the declining participation is that the oldest baby boomers have reached retirement age.

But Craig Alexander, chief economist at TD Bank Group, says "demographics cannot explain the amount of decline" in labor force participation.

Many Americans without jobs remain so discouraged that they've given up on the job market. Others have retired early. Younger ones have enrolled

in school.

Some Americans have suspended their job hunt until the employment landscape brightens. A rising number are collecting disability checks.

"It's not necessarily people retiring," Bovino says. "It's young people going back to school" rather than taking their chances on a weak job market.

Labor force participation for Americans ages 16 to 19 was just 34 percent last month. That's near their record low of 33.5 percent set last year.

It isn't supposed to be this way. After a recession, a brightening economy is supposed to draw people back into the job market. But it hasn't happened. Labor force participation "certainly shouldn't be at current levels," Alexander says.

There aren't enough jobs being filled. Employers are hiring about 4.3 million people a month—before layoffs, dismissals and resignations. In 2007, before the Great Recession, they were hiring 5.2 million a month.

There are three unemployed people, on average, competing for each job opening, compared with 1.8 when the recession officially began in December 2007.

Samsung's new Galaxy Notes to go on sale in Oct.

NEW YORK

(AP)—Samsung said Friday that its new versions of its Galaxy Note smartphone and tablet, along with its new smartwatch, will go on sale in the U.S. next month.

AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, Verizon Wireless and U.S. Cellular all will carry the Galaxy Note 3 smartphone. Some of the cellular carriers will also sell the Galaxy Gear smartwatch.

Major retailers including Best Buy, Amazon.com, RadioShack and Wal-Mart also will carry the smartphone and smartwatch.

Samsung unveiled the products on Wednesday. The smartwatch is designed to let users check messages with a glance at their wrists or have a conversation through a speaker phone.

The watch must be linked wirelessly with a smartphone to perform its full range of functions. It acts as an extension to

A smart watch

Samsung Electronics Co. unveiled a wristwatch device that can make phone calls, surf the Web and take photos.



Source: Samsung Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2013 MCT

All-in-one

- Syncs with smartphones and tablets using Android software; built-in speaker enables hand-free calls
- 1.9-megapixel camera
- 4 GB internal memory
- Voice recognition; users can draft messages, set alarms, check weather
- Available in October in six colors

the phone by discreetly alerting users to incoming messages and calls on its screen, which measures 1.63 inches (4.14 centimeters) diagonally.

AT&T said it will sell the phone for \$299.99 with a new two-year agreement, or for \$35 a month under its AT&T Next installment plan. It will begin shipping orders on Oct. 1.

T-Mobile said it plans to sell the smartphone for \$199.99 down with 24 monthly pay-

ments of \$21. It's also selling the smartwatch for \$299.99. U.S. Cellular confirmed that it will start selling the phone next month, but didn't announce pricing.

The smartwatch will be available in jet black, oatmeal beige, rose gold, wild orange, lime green and mocha gray. The phone and the tablet will be available in jet black and classic white. Colors will vary by seller, Samsung said.

Nation

US runs into resistance over Syria

PARIS (AP)—The U.S. tried to rally support on Saturday for a military strike against Syria, running into resistance from the American public and skeptics in Congress and from European allies bent on awaiting a U.N. report about a chemical attack they acknowledge strongly points to the Assad government.

President Barack Obama prepared for a national address Tuesday night as a growing number of lawmakers, including fellow Democrats, opposed the use of force. The American public didn't yet appear persuaded by Obama's argument that action is needed to deter the future use of chemical weapons. Meanwhile, a U.S. official released a DVD compilation of videos showing victims of the Aug. 21 attack near Damascus.

U.S. Secretary of State

John Kerry, who met with more than two dozen European foreign ministers on Saturday, insisted that international backing to take strong action against Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime was growing, not receding.

Kerry noted that the ministers, who held an informal meeting of the European Union in Vilnius, Lithuania, made powerful statements condemning the attack, and that increasingly there was a sense of conviction that Assad was to blame. Kerry said the U.S. had agreed to provide additional information to those ministers who were not yet convinced that Assad orchestrated the attack.

The EU endorsed a "clear and strong response" to a chemical weapons attack but didn't indicate what type of response they were backing. It also said

that evidence strongly points to the Syrian government. Still, the EU urged the U.S. to delay possible military action until U.N. inspectors report their findings.

The Europeans were divided on whether military action would be effective. Britain's Parliament has voted against military action. France had been ready to act last week but held off when Obama declared that he would seek the backing of Congress. French President Francois Hollande's announcement appeared to catch French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius off guard.

Earlier on Friday, Fabius told EU foreign ministers that there was no need to wait for the U.N. report because it would simply confirm what was already known—that the chemical weapons attack had occurred—but would not say who was responsible.



Kerbie Joseph yells and pumps her fist as she marches with protesters against U.S. military action in Syria through Washington to Capitol Hill from the White House, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013.

ACROSS THE NATION

Wildfire near Yosemite burns into fourth week

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—As a gigantic wildfire in and around Yosemite National Park entered its fourth week Saturday, environmental scientists moved in to begin assessing the damage and protecting habitat and waterways before the fall rainy season. Members of the federal Burned Area Emergency Response team were hiking the rugged Sierra Nevada terrain even as thousands of firefighters still were battling the blaze, now the third-largest wildfire in modern California history. Federal officials have amassed a team of 50 scientists, more than twice what is usually deployed to assess wildfire damage.

Suspect charged with murder in NYC toddler's death

NEW YORK (AP)—A 23-year-old man who allegedly shot a toddler to death in his stroller on a Brooklyn street was held without bail Saturday on a charge of second-degree murder. Daquan Breland pleaded not guilty at his arraignment in New York a day after he and Daquan Wright, 19, were arrested in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. in the slaying of 1-year-old Antiq

Hennis. It wasn't clear if either suspect had an attorney. Wright is awaiting arraignment. Authorities say the boy's parents were pushing him in a stroller while crossing a street in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn on Sunday evening when gunfire broke out. The child was struck on the left side of his face and pronounced dead at a hospital.

Bloomberg says de Blasio running 'racist' campaign

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in an interview that one leading Democrat vying to replace him is running a "racist" campaign based on "class warfare." Bloomberg made the comment about candidate Bill de Blasio in an interview with New York magazine due on newsstands Monday. It appeared on the magazine's website Saturday. De Blasio is white, but he has been polling well among blacks since he began airing television ads featuring his interracial family. His wife is black and the couple has a 16-year-old son. De Blasio has also criticized Bloomberg as not doing enough for the poor, saying New York has become "two cities," one for the rich and one for everyone else.

Asia

Tokyo wins bid to host 2020 Olympics

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The International Olympic Committee went for a familiar, trusted host, selecting Tokyo for the 2020 Games and signaling that playing it safe was preferable to more risky picks like Sochi and Rio.

With Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reassuring IOC members on the Fukushima nuclear crisis, Tokyo defeated Istanbul 60-36 Saturday in the final round of secret voting. Madrid was eliminated earlier after an initial tie with Istanbul.

Tokyo, which hosted the 1964 Olympics, billed itself as the “safe pair of hands” at a time of global political and economic turmoil—a message that clearly resonated with the IOC.

With Madrid’s bid dogged by questions over Spain’s economic crisis and Istanbul handicapped by political unrest and the civil war in neighboring Syria, Tokyo offered the fewest risks.

“The certainty was a crucial factor—the certainty that they could deliver,” IOC vice president Craig Reedie of Britain said.

The choice of Tokyo bucked the IOC’s recent trend of taking chances on host cities—Sochi, Russia, for the 2014 Winter Games, Rio de Janeiro for the 2016 Olympics and Pyeongchang, South Korea, for the 2018 Winter Games.

Preparations for Sochi have been overshadowed by cost overruns, a record \$51 billion budget, security worries and an international outcry over Russia’s anti-gay legislation. There

are mounting concerns among the IOC over construction delays in Rio.

The IOC’s desire for a reliable, dependable host in 2020 was a crucial factor for Tokyo.

“For better or worse, we picked Sochi followed by Rio followed by Pyeongchang,” Canadian member Dick Pound said. “Maybe we need to say, ‘All right, whether it’s the most exciting city in the world or not, they will deliver.’”

Tokyo had been on the defensive in the final days of the campaign because of mounting concerns over the leak of radioactive water from the tsunami-crippled Fukushima nuclear plant.

In the final presentation, Abe gave the IOC assurances that the Fukushima leak was not a threat to Tokyo and took personal responsibility for keeping the games safe.

“Let me assure you the situation is under control,” Abe said. “It has never done and will never do any damage to Tokyo.”

Abe gave further assurances when pressed on the issue by Norwegian IOC member Gerhard Heiberg.

“It poses no problem whatsoever,” Abe said in Japanese, adding that the contamination was limited to a small area and had been “completely blocked.”

“There are no health-related problems until now, nor will there be in the future,” he said. “I make the statement to you in the most emphatic and unequivocal way.”

IOC members said Abe’s answers were critical and helped

dispel any doubts.

“People wanted to hear it and needed to hear it,” Pound said. “And he delivered on that. I think that was a real knockout answer.”

Tokyo Electric Power Co., Fukushima’s operator, has acknowledged that tons of radioactive water has been seeping into the Pacific from the plant for more than two years after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami led to meltdowns at three of its reactors. Recent leaks from tanks storing radioactive water used to cool the reactors have added to fears that the amount of contaminated water is getting out of hand.

Tokyo’s bid benefited from Japan’s large economy and link to Olympic sponsors. Asia offers a huge market for the IOC.

“There are a lot of commercial advantages for the IOC going to a country with the third-biggest GDP,” Australian member John Coates said. “And then compare that to the economic uncertainty facing Spain and the political unrest that Istanbul experienced a few months ago and more particularly the unrest at the Middle East at the moment.”

“The IOC, we’ve taken the safe bet.”

Tokyo delegates in the hall screamed with joy, jumped in the air, hugged and waved small flags after Rogge opened a sealed envelope and read the words: “The International Olympic Committee has the honor of announcing that the games of the 32nd Olympiad in 2020 are awarded to the city of Tokyo.”

Kalahi newspaper in Calapan, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of Manila.

3 brothers charged in gun case tied to Philippines

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York Police Department officer, a federal customs agent in Los Angeles and their younger brother were accused Friday with conspiring to sell high-powered guns to potential buyers in the Philippines. Evidence against the three brothers includes photos they emailed to one another that showed them posing with assault weapons, authorities said. Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn alleged that Officer Rex-Gene Maralit and his brother Wilfredo relied on their brother Ariel to locate customers in the Philippines and email them gun orders. The older brothers “then scoured the Internet for gun dealers and parts suppliers, and used their law enforcement credentials to obtain weapons,” prosecutors said in court papers. The men shipped the guns and gun parts overseas in packages with phony content labels, including one reading, “industrial sliding door track,” the papers said.

tude 6.0 and struck late Friday about 42 kilometers (26 miles) southeast of Uyugan township in the northernmost province of Batanes. It said it was centered at a depth of 183 kilometers (114 miles). The institute recorded at least one aftershock. Ivy Aria of the Office of Civil Defense said no damage or injuries have been reported.

Second journalist killed in Philippines in a week

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine newspaper editor who recently wrote about illegal gambling has been killed, the second journalist slain in the country in a week, police said Thursday. Vergel Bico was shot twice in the head Wednesday as he was driving his motorcycle in Calapan City in Mindoro Oriental province, said local police chief D’Artagnan Katalbas. The gunman fled on a motorcycle, which was driven by another man. Katalbas said a motive was not yet known, but that investigators were “not discounting” that the killing was related to Bico’s work as a journalist. “We are looking at suspected guns for hire here,” Katalbas said. Bico, 41, was an editor for the weekly

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Gunmen abduct 2 teachers in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen abducted two teachers belonging to a Catholic charity group that helps poor children in the southern Philippines and army special forces are searching for them, military officials said Thursday. Army Col. Carlito Galvez said Frederick Banot and Cherden Masong were abducted late Wednesday from their house and taken away on a speedboat by men armed with rifles in remote Lantawan town on the island province of Basilan. The two men belong to Charity Children Foundation, a private group that helps tribal children in Basilan, a predominantly Muslim province about 880 kilometers (550 miles) south of Manila.

Strong earthquake hits northern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Government seismologists say a moderately strong earthquake has jolted the northern tip of the Philippines, but no damage or injuries have been reported. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the earthquake measured magni-

World

Shelling near Damascus kills 16



This Friday, Sept. 6, 2013 citizen journalism image provided by Aleppo Media Center AMC which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows damaged residential buildings from heavy fighting between Free Syrian army fighters and government forces in Aleppo, Syria.

BEIRUT (AP)—Heavy government shelling of rebel positions near the Syrian capital killed 16 people on Saturday, activists said, as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry lobbied European allies to back Washington’s proposed military action against the ruling regime.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the mortar and artillery fire on the Moldokhiya agricultural area south of Damascus killed 14 rebels. A child and another civilian also died in the shelling, it added.

The group also reported heavy fighting between rebels and troops loyal to President Bashar Assad around the Christian village of Maaloula northeast of Damascus. The rebel advance into the area this week was reportedly spearheaded by al-Qaida-linked fighters, exacerbating fears among Syrians and religious minorities in particular that Islamic extremists are playing an increasingly important role in the rebellion.

Fighters from the Western-

backed Free Syrian Army also have participated in battles around Maaloula, destroying two government checkpoints near the town earlier this week, according to a statement by the main opposition coalition on Friday.

The fighting comes as President Barack Obama’s administration pressed ahead with efforts to win congressional backing and international support for military strikes against Syria over an alleged chemical attack in August outside Damascus. The U.S. says Assad’s forces fired rockets loaded with the nerve agent sarin on rebel-held areas near the capital before dawn on Aug. 21, killing at least 1,429 people. Other estimates put the death toll from the attack at more than 500.

Obama, back in Washington after a trip to Europe that included a two-day visit to Russia to attend a Group of 20 summit, will intensify his efforts to sell a skeptical Congress and a war-weary American public on a military

strike against Syria.

A passionate debate is already underway in Congress and the administration’s lobbying campaign culminates Tuesday, the evening before a critical vote on the possible Syria action is expected in the Senate. Obama will address the nation from the White House that night to make his case for military action.

In Lithuania, Kerry met with European leaders, who have been skeptical about whether any military action against Assad’s regime can be effective.

In a joint statement Saturday, European foreign ministers agreed with the U.S. that the Aug. 21 alleged chemical attack appears to have been the work of the Syrian regime. But, they added, any potential military attack against Syria should wait for a U.N. inspectors’ report.

EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton said that the available intelligence “seems to indicate strong evidence that the Syrian regime is responsible for the attack.”

Europeans urge US to await UN report on Syria

PARIS (AP)—European foreign ministers on Saturday endorsed a “clear and strong response” to a chemical weapons attack that strongly points to the Syrian government, but they urged the U.S. to delay possible military action until U.N. inspectors report their findings. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, trying to make the Obama administration’s case for a strike, thanked the European Union for a “strong statement about the need for accountability.” Kerry said he would share his counterparts’ concern with U.S. officials. Later, at a news conference

in Paris with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Kerry said “this is not the time to be silent spectators to slaughter” and that “this is not the time to allow a dictator unfettered use of some of the heinous weapons on earth.”

Vatican: 100,000 attend Syria peace vigil

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Tens of thousands of people filled St. Peter’s Square for a four-hour Syria peace vigil late Saturday, answering Pope Francis’ call for a grassroots cry for peace that was echoed by Christians and non-Christians alike in Syria and in vigils around the world. The Vatican estimated

about 100,000 took part in the Rome event, making it one of the largest rallies in the West against proposed U.S.-led military action against the Syrian regime following the Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack near Damascus. Francis spent most of the vigil in silent prayer, but during his speech he issued a heartfelt plea for peace, denouncing those who are “captivated by the idols of domination and power” and destroy God’s creation through war. “This evening, I ask the Lord that we Christians, and our brothers and sisters of other religions and every man and woman of good will, cry out forcefully: Violence and war are never the way to peace!”

Focus

What makes chemical weapons 'red line' in Syria?

By KARIN LAUB and SHARON COHEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The ghastly images reveal rows of the dead, many of them children, wrapped in white burial shrouds, and survivors gasping for air, their bodies twitching, foam oozing from mouths.

This was unlike any other scene in Syria's brutal civil war, where bombs and bullets have killed and maimed tens of thousands over the past 2 1/2 years.

The Aug. 21 attack on the rebel-held suburbs of Damascus was carried out, the U.S. says, with chemical weap-

ons. It crossed what President Barack Obama calls a "red line" and, he says, demands a military response against the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

But in a war where only a fraction of more than 100,000 Syrian deaths have come from poison gas—the Obama administration says more than 1,400 died in the attack—what is it about chemical weapons that set them apart in policy and perception?

Some experts say chemical weapons belong in a special category. They point to the moral and legal taboos that date to

World War I, when the gassing of thousands of soldiers led to a worldwide treaty banning the use of these weapons. The experts also say these chemicals are not just repugnant but pose national security risks.

"The use of nerve gas or other types of deadly chemical agents clearly violates the widely and long-established norms of the international community," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, a nonpartisan research group in Washington.

"Each time these rules are broken and there's an inadequate response, the risk that



AP

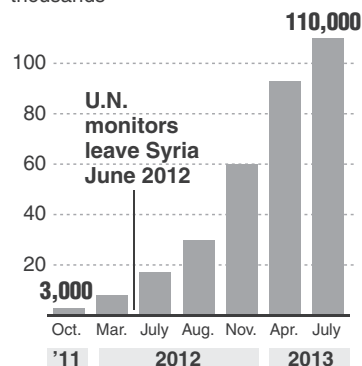
In this August 21, 2013, citizen journalism file image provided by the Local Committee of Arbeen which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, Syrian citizens trying to identify dead bodies, after an alleged poisonous gas attack fired by regime forces, according to activists in Arbeen town, Damascus, Syria.

The human costs in Syria

A look at the death and destruction in Syria's civil war and key dates since the violence began in March 2011, after the Syrian military shot protesters demanding the release of political prisoners.

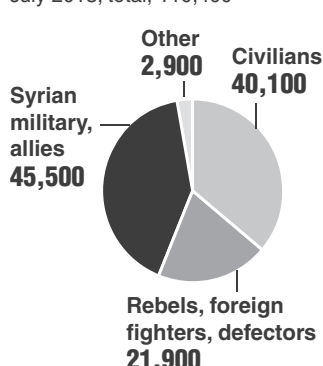
Growing death toll

Total estimated deaths, in thousands



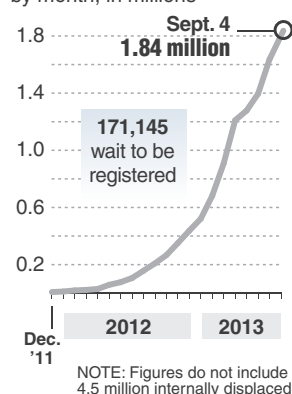
Many civilian lives lost

Deaths by group, as of July 2013; total, 110,400



Refugee crisis deepens

Registered refugees by month, in millions



Rebellion sinks into civil war

2011

June Syrian military besieges rebellious town of Jisr al Shughour; 10,000 refugees flee to Turkey

July Defectors from Syrian military form Free Syrian Army (FSA)

Aug. President Barack Obama joins other world leaders in saying Syrian President Bashar Assad should step down

Nov. Arab League suspends Syria after it fails to implement Arab peace plan

2012

Jan. 24 Jihadist rebels announce formation of al-Qaida-affiliated Al-Nusra Front in Syria

Feb. U.S. closes its embassy; journalist Maria Colvin killed during Syrian shelling in city of Homs

April U.N. brokers non-binding peace plan; deaths drop by more than 30 percent

June U.N. suspends mission; death toll rises

July FSA seizes Aleppo; much of city's historic areas ruined

July 23 Syria admits for first time it has chemical weapons, but says they'll never be used on Syrians

Aug. 20 Obama issues 'red line' warning on Syria's use of chemical weapons and possibility of U.S. intervention

Nov. Several major opposition forces unite as National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces at meeting in Qatar

Dec. U.S. says Al-Nusra Front is terrorist group

2013

March Rebel forces seize northern city of Raqqa; Syrian warplanes bomb city

March 19 Both sides accuse one another of chemical weapons attack at Khan al-Asal

April Syria accused of using chemical weapons at Khan al-Asal; U.S. agrees

May Lebanon's Hezbollah says it has sent fighters to help Assad; Syria then retakes strategic town of Qusair with help from Hezbollah

June Al-Qaida leader Zawahiri settles dispute between Al-Nusra Front and another Islamist rebel group, confirming al-Qaida's influence in civil war; CIA begins to arm, train a small group of moderate Syrian rebels

July Russia delivers report to U.N. accusing rebels of March 19 chemical attack

Aug. 6 Rebels capture Syrian air base; FSA says al-Nusra Front, other jihadists helped

Aug. 18 U.N. inspectors arrive to investigate March 19 alleged chemical attack

Aug. 21 Chemical weapons attack kills hundreds of civilians in suburbs of Damascus

Aug. 31 Obama says in TV address that U.S. has proof Syria used chemical weapons, supports U.S. military response but wants Congress to vote on whether to attack

Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, Reuters, CSIS, United Nations High Commission on Refugees, BBC, AP Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2013 MCT



some of the world's most dangerous weapons will be used in even further atrocities is going to increase—that's why here and why now," he added.

Others contend there is no distinction and that the U.S. should focus on protecting Syrian civilians, not on preventing the use of a particular type of weapon against them.

"The Syrian regime commits war crimes and crimes against humanity every day," said Rami Abdel-Rahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. "A war crime is a war crime." The Britain-based anti-regime monitor of the fighting says it has been compiling a list of the names of the dead from the Aug. 21 attack and that its toll has reached 502.

The exact number of those killed is not known. The Obama administration reported 1,429 people died, including 426 children, citing intelligence reports. Others have provided lower numbers. The Assad government blames rebels.

They came a year after Obama said the use of such lethal weapons in Syria would carry "enormous consequences."

"A red line for us is we start seeing a whole bunch of chemical weapons moving around or being utilized," Obama said.

Last week, Obama shifted the onus. "I didn't set a red line," he said. "The world set a red line" with a treaty banning the use of chemical weapons.

The president's call for a punitive strike has met with strong resistance and skepticism, both on Capitol Hill, where he's seeking congressional approval, and in a nation weary of a decade of war

in Afghanistan and Iraq.

At last week's Group of 20 economic summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, Obama said he put the issue before Congress "because I could not honestly claim that the threat posed by Assad's use of chemical weapons on innocent civilians and women and children posed an imminent, direct threat to the United States."

Obama plans to talk to the U.S. public about Syria on Tuesday night. He has expressed confidence he can convince Americans that "limited and proportional" military action is necessary.

The president's condemnation of chemical weapons reflects a nearly century-long history of opposition that spans the globe.

After tens of thousands of soldiers, mostly Russians, were asphyxiated by phosgene, chlorine and other deadly gases on the battlefield during World War I, most nations banned these chemicals in the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which Syria signed.

Many signatories, however, reserved the right to respond if attacked first, said W. Andrew Terrill, a research professor at the U.S. Army War College in Pennsylvania.

In 1993, the Chemical Weapons Convention outlawed the use, production and stockpiling of these agents. Syria is one of the few nations not to have signed the agreement.

Terrill said the "red line" that Obama has cited shouldn't be viewed as just an emotional response to horrific acts but as "cold hard strategy. I think it gives us the moral high ground and we're going to use the moral high ground when we get an opportunity to do so while pur-

suing our interests."

There also are distinct national security reasons for military action, he said.

If Assad isn't stopped now, that could open the way for expanded use of chemical weapons and embolden nations with suspected nuclear ambitions, such as Iran, Terrill said. "It's better to nip it in the bud now," he added. "It's better to make our disapproval known early because if we don't, we could be coping with a much worse situation."

Robert Kaplan, an analyst at Stratfor, a U.S.-based global intelligence firm, said America's strategic interests often collide with aspirations to be a guardian of international norms.

In the 1980s, he said, the Reagan administration did not punish Iraq's Saddam Hussein when he used chemical weapons during the war with Iran and against his country's Kurdish minority. Those attacks killed several thousand people, including an estimated 5,000 in the Iraqi village of Halabja. Shocking pictures of those victims were transmitted around the world.

At the time, the U.S. had other priorities, such as the Cold War with the Soviet Union and attempts to contain Iran, where an Islamic revolution in 1979 had ousted the shah, a U.S. ally, said Kaplan and Richard Price, a professor at the University of British Columbia. Punishing Saddam could have undermined those objectives, they said.

Obama now faces another dilemma, said Price, author of "The Chemical Weapons Taboo." If the president enforces that "taboo" against poison gas

See SYRIA on Next Page

Health & Fitness

WASHINGTON (AP)—Call it a hidden ally: The right germs just might be able to help fight fat.

Different kinds of bacteria that live inside the gut can help spur obesity or protect against it, say scientists at Washington University in St. Louis who transplanted intestinal germs from fat or lean people into mice and watched the rodents change.

And what they ate determined whether the good germs could move in and do their job.

Thursday's report raises the possibility of one day turning gut bacteria into personalized fat-fighting therapies, and it may help explain why some people have a harder time losing weight than others do.

"It's an important player," said Dr. David Relman of Stanford University, who also studies how gut bacteria influence

Study: The right bacteria might help fight obesity

health but wasn't involved in the new research. "This paper says that diet and microbes are necessary companions in all of this. They literally and figuratively feed each other."

The research was reported in the journal *Science*.

We all develop with an essentially sterile digestive tract. Bacteria rapidly move in starting at birth—bugs that we pick up from mom and dad, the environment, first foods. Ultimately, the intestine teems with hundreds of

species, populations that differ in people with varying health. Overweight people harbor different types and amounts of gut bacteria than lean people, for example. The gut bacteria we pick up as children can stick with us for decades, although their makeup changes when people lose weight, previous studies have shown.

Clearly, what you eat and how much you move are key to how much you weigh. But are those bacterial differences

a contributing cause of obesity, rather than simply the result of it? If so, which bugs are to blame, and might it be possible to switch out the bad actors?

To start finding out, Washington University graduate student Vanessa Ridaura took gut bacteria from eight people—four pairs of twins that each included one obese sibling and one lean sibling. One pair of twins was identical, ruling out an inherited explanation for their different weights. Using twins also guaranteed similar childhood environments and diets.

She transplanted the human microbes into the intestines of young mice that had been raised germ-free.

The mice who received gut bacteria from the obese people gained more weight—and experienced unhealthy metabolic changes—even though they didn't eat more than the mice who received germs from the

lean twins, said study senior author Dr. Jeffrey Gordon, director of Washington University's Center of Genome Sciences and Systems Biology.

Then came what Gordon calls the battle of the microbes. Mice that harbored gut bacteria from a lean person were put in the same cages as mice that harbored the obesity-prone germs. The research team took advantage of an icky fact of rodent life: Mice eat feces, so presumably they could easily swap intestinal bugs.

What happened was a surprise. Certain bacteria from the lean mice invaded the intestines of the fatter mice, and their weight and metabolism improved. But the trade was one-way—the lean mice weren't affected.

Moreover, the fatter mice got the bacterial benefit only when they were fed a low-fat, high-fiber diet. When Ridaura

substituted the higher-fat, lower-fiber diet typical of Americans, the protective bug swap didn't occur.

Why? Gordon already knew from human studies that obese people harbor less diverse gut bacteria. "It was almost as if there were potential job vacancies" in their intestines that the lean don't have, he explained.

Sure enough, a closer look at the mice that benefited from the bug swap suggests a specific type of bacteria, from a family named Bacteroidetes, moved into previously unoccupied niches in their colons—if the rodents ate right.

How might those findings translate to people? For a particularly hard-to-treat diarrheal infection, doctors sometimes transplant stool from a healthy person into the sick person's intestine. Some scientists wonder if fecal transplants from the lean to the fat might treat obesity, too.

But Gordon foresees a less invasive alternative: Determining the best combinations of intestinal bacteria to match a person's diet, and then growing those bugs in sterile lab dishes—like this study could—and turning them into pills. He estimates such an attempt would take at least five more years of research.



This handout photo provided by the Washington University School of Medicine shows Dr. Jeffrey Gordon and graduate student Vanessa Ridaura of Washington University in St. Louis example samples of gut bacteria taken from fat or lean people.

SYRIA

From Page 18

attacks and strikes Syria, he risks "violating another set of norms, about when it is legitimate to resort to force under international law," Price said.

Some Obama critics have said he must seek U.N. Security Council approval for any strike, but a likely Russian veto there blocks that option.

Others have said he should have intervened earlier in Syria, where numerous acts of brutality have been reported that have involved conventional weapons.

For example, five days after the gas attack, an incendiary bomb, which contains substances that cause severe burns, struck a building being used as a school in northwest Syria, killing at least one man and wounding several others, according to the Syrian Observatory for Hu-

man Rights.

Amateur video posted online showed several teenage boys, stripped down to their pants or underwear, their bodies ravaged by burns. Some were seen writhing on the floor. One was shown holding out his arms, shaking and dazed. Another moaned in agony and muttered "water, water."

The New York-based group Human Rights Watch says it has documented multiple attacks in Syria with incendiary bombs dropped from government planes since November. The group released a report last week identifying 152 locations where government forces used at least 204 cluster munitions, which explode in the air, releasing hundreds of tiny bomblets, over a one-year period ending in June. These munitions pose a long-lasting danger to civilians.

"It turns out that conventional weapons are extremely effective at killing civilians and they

can be just as arbitrary," said Dominic Tierney, an associate professor of political science at Swarthmore College and author of "How We Fight: Crusades, Quagmires, and the American Way of War."

"We should be focused much more on the overall plight of the civilians ... and not be so fixated on whether one particular weapon system is used. ... It's almost like saying we're making strangling illegal, but other kinds of murder are OK."

Tierney also said Obama's imposing of a red line on Syria can have a "perverse effect" because it implicitly tells Assad the U.S. won't intervene if he stays away from using chemical agents to kill civilians.

"If we went to war to try to deter Assad from using chemical weapons—let's say we succeed and ... instead (he) goes back to using conventional weapons," he said. "Is that supposed to be a victory?"

Personal Trainer

Two common ankle injuries

Exercise puts heavy pressure on the ankle joint, and these two kinds of injuries can occur at its weakest points:

Sprain ("twisted ankle")

What
Ligament
(connects bone to bone)

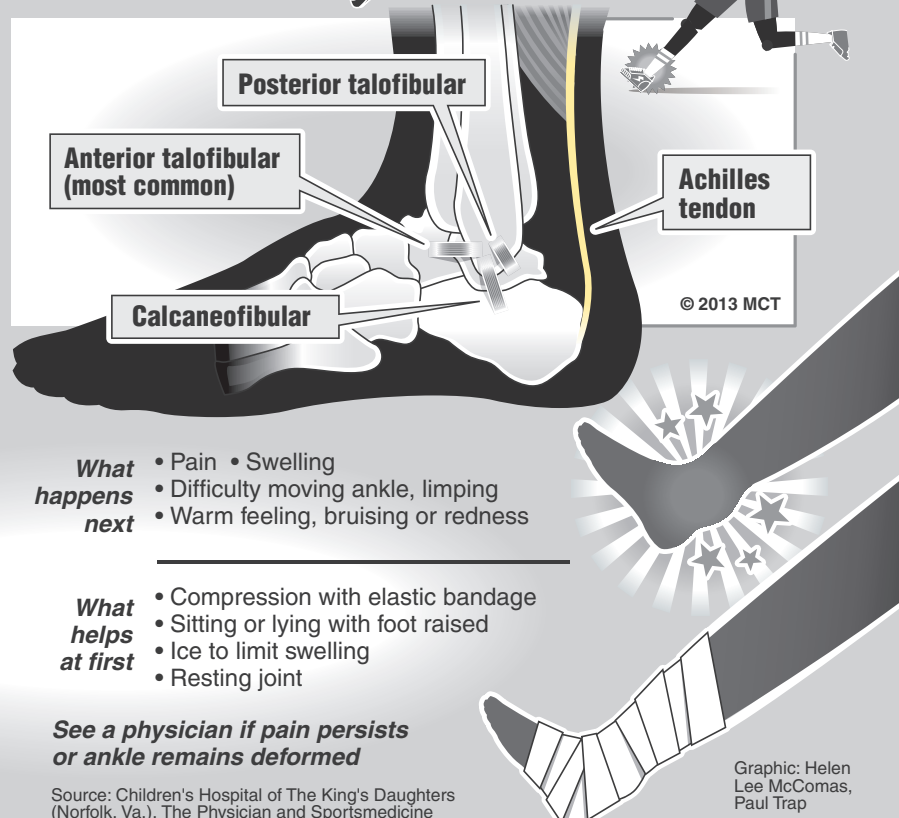
How
Twisting or pulling
Often caused by rolling foot

Where

Strain

Muscle or tendon
(connects muscles to bone)

Usually from force, stretching or overuse



What happens next
• Pain • Swelling
• Difficulty moving ankle, limping
• Warm feeling, bruising or redness

What helps at first
• Compression with elastic bandage
• Sitting or lying with foot raised
• Ice to limit swelling
• Resting joint

See a physician if pain persists or ankle remains deformed

Source: Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters (Norfolk, Va.), The Physician and Sportsmedicine

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Life & Style

Italian documentary 'Sacro GRA' wins Golden Lion

VENICE, Italy (AP)—The Italian film "Sacro GRA," a documentary about life along the highway that circles Rome by director Gianfranco Rosi, won the Golden Lion for best film at the 70th edition of the Venice Film Festival on Saturday.

Rosi called the award a breakthrough for documentaries, which were included this year for the first time in the main competition.

"I didn't expect to win such an important prize with a documentary," Rosi said. "It was truly an act of courage, a barrier has been broken. Now finally documentaries are being seen alongside fiction, therefore documentary is cinema."

Rosi, who spent two years in a minivan circling the ring road filming conversations with such diverse subjects as a count, a paramedic and a botanist tending the highway's palm trees, dedicated the prize to the characters in the film "who allowed me to enter in their lives. Some of them became involuntary protagonists, without knowing it."

It was the first time an Italian film has won the top prize at Venice in 15 years, when Gianni Amelio won for "The Way We Laughed" in 1998.

"Sacro GRA" won a standing ovation during its official world premiere, but mixed international reviews.

"Without trying to make a big



Director Gianfranco Rosi celebrates his Golden Lion for the movie 'Sacro GRA' during the awards ceremony of the 70th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013.

point or push a political agenda, he taps into the everyday life of society's fringe dwellers in a series of sketches," the Hollywood Reporter wrote, saying the film "holds its own" in competition, while Variety said Rosi's "idea remains more absorbing than the final product. Docu fests await."

The Silver Lion for best director went to Alexandros Avranas of Greece for "Miss Violence," a disturbing look at sexual vio-

lence and abuse perpetrated by a grandfather, played by Greek actor Themis Panou, who won the best actor prize.

Best actress went to Italian actress Elena Cotta, who didn't utter a word in director Emma Dante's "A Street in Palermo," about two women blocked in a standoff when their cars meet on a narrow street, but managed to use facial expressions to portray intense emotions throughout the film. Cotta dedicated the award

to her husband, with whom she recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Tye Sheridan, 16, won the best young actor award for his role opposite Nicolas Cage in David Gordon Green's "Joe" as a boy who looks to Joe, an ex-con played by Cage, for guidance as he struggles with an abusive and drunkard father. Sheridan has appeared previously in Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life" and Jeff Nichols' "Mud."

The Grand Jury Prize went to Tsai Ming-liang's "Stray Dogs," about a father and two children living on the margins of modern-day Taipei. The director, who won the Golden Lion in 1994 for "Vive L'amour," thanked the Venice audiences "that slowed their pace to watch my movie."

"Philomena" won best screenplay for Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope. The film by Stephen Frears stars Judi Dench in the real-life role of an Irish woman who was forced by nuns to give up her son for adoption, and keeps it secret for nearly 50 years until she sets off on an un-

likely journey to the U.S. with a jaded journalist to search for her son.

The Special Jury Prize went to German director Philip Groening's "The Police Officer's Wife," about violence between husband and wife and a mother's efforts to protect their child's innocence.

Oscar-winning director Bernardo Bertolucci headed the nine-member jury that screened 20 movies in competition, and read out the winners from a wheelchair on stage. He told reporters at the start of the festival that he hoped to be "surprised" by the winners.

Harry Potter actor evolves with bold new roles

TORONTO (AP)—Not long ago, Daniel Radcliffe traded in his black-rimmed Harry Potter glasses for a bold acting choice. And he has never looked back.

Now the 24-year-old actor's at the Toronto International Film Festival with three new films, each unique in its own way, and far more mature than the saga of the boy wizard.

While they cover some adult themes like murder and homosexuality, the actor claims his current role selections are not part of some strategy to abandon his past, rather they're about doing what actors do best: "Take chances."

"You have to make films based on your own instincts ... I have to make the kind of films that I would want to see," Radcliffe told The Associated Press on Saturday.

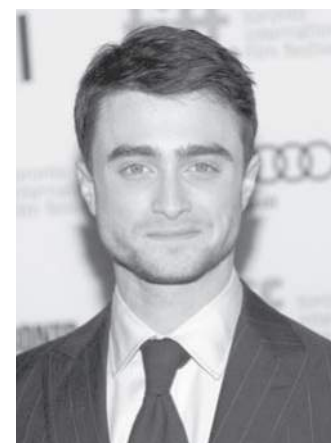
The actor spoke candidly concerning his criteria for selecting movie roles during an interview for his new film, "Horns." It's based on the 2010 novel of the same name, and has Radcliffe in the title role of a man suspected of brutally killing his girlfriend and one morning awakening with a pair of horns on his head.

"It's not so much a process or a strategy. It's about what scripts you get sent. So when I read 'Horns,' I was immediately passionate about it, and I wanted to play this part and knew I could have an interesting take on it," Radcliffe said.

Radcliffe also stars as poet Alan Ginsberg in "Kill Your Darlings." In that film, he has a graphic sex scene with another man. But the actor isn't at all worried about any negative reactions, including from Potter fans.

"What my fan base wants me to do is not the most effective way of forging a career, or certainly not the most honest way of doing it. You got to remember that I did 'Equus' and that was a pretty big deal."

That bold decision came when he was still making "Harry Potter" films. Then 17,



Daniel Radcliffe arrives at the premiere of "The F Word" on day 3 of the Toronto International Film Festival at the Ryerson Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013, in Toronto.

Radcliffe portrayed the troubled young man, Allen Strang, in the London and Broadway revivals of Peter Shaffer's award-winning play. The role caused some controversy because the underage actor had to appear naked for part of the second act. His "Horns" co-star, Juno Temple, feels that role helped transform Radcliffe from a child star to an adult actor.

"Whether you were involved in Harry Potter or not, just the bravery of going on stage and doing a play like 'Equus' ... those brave moments are really telling as to why these amazing roles are coming your way," Temple said.

She stars as the girlfriend in "Horns" as seen through flashbacks. Temple is the daughter of British film director, Julien Temple.

Radcliffe also stars in the romantic comedy, "The F Word." So while there's a daring departure from child stardom for him, he doesn't feel that he's alienating the Potter audience. In fact, he feels just the opposite.

"What you got to remember about the Potter audience is that they grew up with me, and a lot of them are now my age or older. They want to see dark, challenging material as much as anyone else does," Radcliffe said.

In 'Gravity,' a cinematic feat amid the cosmos

TORONTO (AP)—It's the 13-minute shot heard round the world.

Festival audiences in Venice and Telluride have been floored by the lengthy opening shot to Alfonso Cuarón's 3-D space odyssey, "Gravity," which plunges moviegoers into space and leaves them reeling in weightlessness. When the film premieres Sunday at the Toronto International Festival, the lore of Cuarón's balletic beginning is sure to only grow.

"It's the idea of trying to create a moment of truthfulness in which the camera happens to be there just to witness, and respecting that moment in real time," Cuarón said in a recent interview.

The Mexican director and his longtime cinematographer, Emmanuel Lubezki, beginning with "Y Tu Mama Tambien" and up to their last film, the gritty science-fiction thriller "Children of Men," have been renowned for their propensity for long, unbroken, beautifully choreographed sequences. A four-minute uncut scene in "Children of Men" captured a playful conversation scene in a car suddenly ambushed in a

forest by dozens wielding clubs and guns, and then carried on through the escape and beyond. For it, Cuarón built a track inside the car for the camera to move forward and backward.

The shot at the start of "Gravity" similarly moves from banality to mayhem, ending in uncertainty. Several astronauts (Sandra Bullock, George Clooney) are repairing a space station and bantering breezily with their NASA dispatch in Houston (voiced by an unseen Ed Harris). When a cascading storm of satellite debris caused by an asteroid rushes past, the space station shatters and the astronauts are stranded in space.

Cuarón and Lubezki capture it all seamlessly with a camera floating around the characters, moving variously into close-up and wide shots. It's, as Cuarón calls it, "a continuous moment."

"We feel like sometimes the language of close-ups and intercuts abstracts the characters from the environment," says Cuarón. "We wanted the environment to be as important in weight as the characters."

Variety hailed the shot as having "completely immersed us in the beauty and majesty of

a dark, pitiless universe." The Hollywood Reporter called the film, which Warner Bros. will release Oct. 4, "the most realistic and beautifully choreographed film ever set in space."

There are several other minutes-long takes in "Gravity" of startling uninterrupted clarity, but the opening shot is the one cinephiles will drool over. Considered bravura feats of filmmaking prowess, long takes are the stuff of filmmaking legend with famous practitioners including Orson Welles ("Touch of Evil"), Alfred Hitchcock ("Rope"), Martin Scorsese ("Goodfellas"), Robert Altman ("The Player") and Michelangelo Antonioni ("The Passenger").

Cuarón doesn't like to draw attention to his long takes, which have been roundly inducted into that cinematic tradition. The director, who claimed not to know how long the first shot of "Gravity" is, fears turning into what he calls "Look, mama! No hands!" filmmaking.

"That's something I worry about sometimes," he says. "If it catches the attention of people, I'm not sure it works."

Advances in digital technology have opened up new realms

for long takes (the 2002 film "Russian Ark" was made in one 96-minute Steadicam shot), but Cuarón had particular challenges operating in simulated zero gravity. He and visual effects supervisor Tim Webber created what they called "The Lightbox": a large cube surrounded by LED lights inside of which Bullock and Clooney were rigged to mimic weightlessness.

It was complex work, trying to stay faithful to the reality of movement in space. But Cuarón wanted an immersive experience, partly inspired by documentaries of astronauts on the moon like "For All Mankind"—films that didn't have the luxury of cutting to a close-up.

Instead, Cuarón's camera at times drifts into the perspective of Bullock's engineer character and then floats away "almost as if you're another astronaut following the journey," he says.

Though Cuarón revels in such choreography, even he was surprised by the size of the task. He started expecting to make a simple chamber piece with just two characters. It ended up—as his collaborators often reminded him—taking four and a half years.

Bruno Mars to sing at Super Bowl half



Bruno Mars poses backstage with the award for Best Male Video for "Locked Out of Heaven" at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, at the Barclays Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Grammy-winner Bruno Mars will sing at halftime of the Super Bowl in February, a person familiar with the NFL's entertain-

ment plans told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

The official word is expected to come at an event in New York's Times Square on Sunday.

The NFL's regular season began Thursday, and the first full

slate of games is Sunday.

The Super Bowl will be played Feb. 2 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. Halftime shows have drawn more than 100 million television viewers in the United States alone in past years.

Beyonce was the star of this year's Super Bowl halftime show in February in New Orleans, where the Baltimore Ravens beat the San Francisco 49ers 34-31.

Some recent halftime performers at the NFL's championship game were Madonna in 2012, The Black Eyed Peas with Usher and Slash in 2011, The Who in 2010, and Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band in 2009.

Mars is one of pop music's top acts, with several No. 1 hits, including his most recent, "When I Was Your Man."

The 27-year-old singer-songwriter-producer was honored for best male video and choreography for "Treasure" at the MTV Video Music Awards last month.

Mars, who was born Peter Hernandez, released his platinum-selling debut, "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," in 2010, and released his second album, "Unorthodox Jukebox," last year. His hits include "Locked Out of Heaven," "Just the Way You Are" and "Grenade."

Eminem makes puzzling appearance on ESPN

NEW YORK (AP)—Eminem made an unlikely and puzzling appearance on ESPN's "Saturday Night Football" halftime show.

The rap superstar, who has a new album out in the fall, appeared to promote his new single and video, "Berzerk."

Sitting with Brent Musburger

and Kirk Herbstreit, Eminem seemed at first slightly confused, with his mouth hanging open.

Eminem rarely does interviews, and certainly not live on ESPN. Musburger asked him questions about his music and referred to him by his given name, Marshall Mathers.

Said Eminem: "Live TV freaks me out a little bit."

But he soon seemed to relax, saying "Berzerk" would be the new theme of "SNF." The Detroit native also talked about his devotion to the Detroit Lions.

His "MMLP2" comes out Nov. 5.

Gandolfini on screen again in 'Enough Said'

TORONTO (AP)—After Nicole Holofcener cast James Gandolfini in her divorcee romantic comedy "Enough Said," the "Sopranos" actor kept suggesting she rethink her decision.

Alec Baldwin, he insisted, would be far better suited.

"He would list some actors he thought could do a much better job," Holofcener said in a recent interview. "I felt confident he could do this part. More than he did. He was quite certain that he couldn't pull it off."

What began as a stretch outside Gandolfini's comfort zone is now debuting, tragically, as one of Gandolfini's final performances. "Enough Said," which premieres Saturday at the Toronto International Film Festival

ahead of Fox Searchlight's Sept. 18 release, was filmed about a year before the actor died of a heart attack in June. (His final film, the Brooklyn crime movie "Animal Rescue," is expected to be released next year.)

Holofcener's "Enough Said" is about a middle-aged masseuse (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) who begins dating a fellow divorcee (Gandolfini) also with a daughter going off to college.

Gandolfini's career was more varied than many realize, vacillating between comedy (the political satire "In the Loop," the Broadway play "God of Carnage"), turns of tenderness (the childless parent drama "We Are the Rileys," the Maurice Sendak adaptation "Where the Wild Things

Are") and even musicals (John Turturro's "Romance and Cigarettes"). But he's particularly unadorned in "Enough Said," playing a sensitive, teddy bear of a father falling for Louis-Dreyfus's more hesitant character.

Holofcener, the director of the mother-daughter comedy "Lovely & Amazing," had nearly cast Gandolfini in the Oliver Platt role for her 2010 film "Please Give." Although Holofcener says she was "intimidated by him as a person and an actor," she knew she wanted to work with him. Gandolfini, in turn, had long wanted to move away from some of the more thuggish characters he's best known for—not only Tony Soprano but his henchmen of "True Romance" and "Get Shorty."

Katy Perry previews new album 'Prism' at NYC event

NEW YORK (AP)—Katy Perry says although she's "older and wiser," she still plans to have fun.

Perry debuted 12 songs from her new album, "Prism," to be released Oct. 22, in front of an audience of 100 industry insiders and journalists Thursday night in New York. The beat-driven album features likable, radio-friendly tracks, much like her multi-hit 2010 effort, "Teenage Dream."

The 28-year-old pop star played songs like the '80s-inspired "Birthday," which she called "something like Mariah Carey would have put on her first album." She said "Uncon-

ditionally" was her favorite song and she was proud to have written it. "Dark Horse," which features rapper Juicy J, sounds like a Southern rap-techno mashup.

Perry's first single, "Roar," bumped Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" from the top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 chart this week. She debuted the music video for the track Thursday.

"I'm very excited to bring visuals to a lot of the songs and play them live," she said.

"Prism" features producers Dr. Luke, Klas Ahlund, Sia, Bloodshy, Greg Kurstin and others. Some of the new

tracks include emotional lyrics. She sings "one man's trash is another man's treasure" on "Double Rainbow," and on "By the Grace of God," she sings "wasn't going to let love take me out that way."

"Prism" will include 13 tracks; its deluxe version will have 16 songs. The singer was excited and playful at the event, and even cracked a few jokes. She said the album was due at her label on Monday, but not all of the tracks were mixed.

"It's the 'Prism' preview. I wanted to show you what my prism can do," she said to laughs.

Family's ailing nanny should be given the chance to heal

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Our nanny, who is 58, was diagnosed with breast cancer just before I delivered baby No. 2. The boys are now 15 months and 4 weeks old.

"Nora" has started chemotherapy after having surgery. I completely understand that she has to attend to her needs right now and focus on her health, but she wanted to continue working without it being an issue. Nora has had to take off several days already in addition to being—as I expected—tired and unable to keep up with my active toddler.

I start back to work soon and my job is a demanding one. My husband and I have discussed options and feel it would be best to mandate that Nora take this time off. We will have to make other arrangements for child care, and I can't guarantee Nora's job when she feels better.

She has taken such good care of our first son it kills me to have to let her go, especially while she's dealing with cancer. But I must return to work and do what's best for my kids. Any advice?

MOMMY OF TWO IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR MOMMY: Have a meeting with Nora and explain your concerns. Ask if she knows someone reliable who could watch the children on those days when she is too weak to do so. Or contact a household staffing agency about getting a temporary fill-in. It would be far more humane than firing her.

For Nora's sake, please try it. If my suggestions don't work, revisit letting her go at a later time.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 61-year-old father was arrested recently for 30 counts of possession of child pornography. He has had a rough past—he cheated on my mother and has had multiple stints in rehab for alcohol abuse. During my teenage years he verbally abused me. My mother is in denial about the entire situation and the fact that he is facing time in prison for his actions.

Nine months ago, my husband and I were blessed with the birth of our beautiful baby girl. I feel I must protect her from my parents and my father in particular. Some of my family agree with my decision, others disagree because I am my parents' only child. Am I wrong for not wanting my father and possibly my mother any longer in my life?

TOUGH LOVE IN FLORIDA

DEAR TOUGH LOVE: No. And as for the reaction of your relatives, remember that you can't please everyone, and the well-being of your child must come first.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: How do I keep a co-worker from borrowing money from me? I have my paycheck direct-deposited, which means the money is available a day earlier than "Anita's."

She asked me yesterday if I would lend her money for cigarettes, and I told her I didn't have any cash on me. When I went on break to buy lunch with my ATM card, Anita came waltzing over and immediately told the cashier to ring up the cigarettes on my ATM card! She said she'd pay me back more than the amount charged to my card.

In the future, how can I handle this if it happens again? I needed the money for my own use, and now I must wait until next week for her to pay me back.

BUCK STOPS HERE IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR BUCK: One way to handle it would be to be proactive and tell Anita that what she did was rude and you didn't like it. Another would be to inform the cashier that what Anita wanted was NOT OK with you, and to never do it again. Whichever you decide, don't be afraid of hurting Anita's feelings because she has a hide of steel.

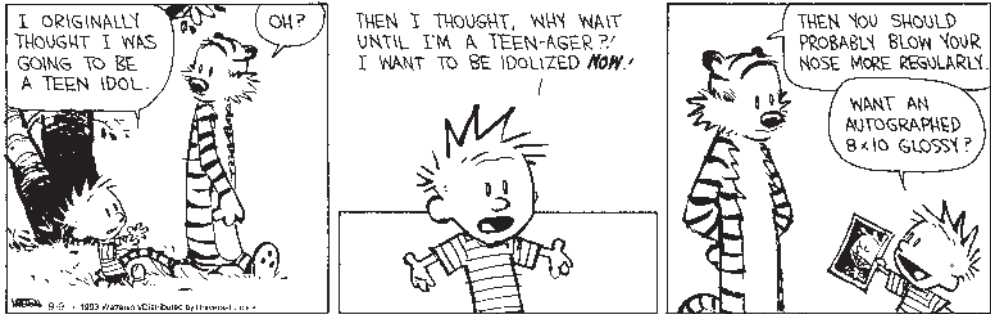
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



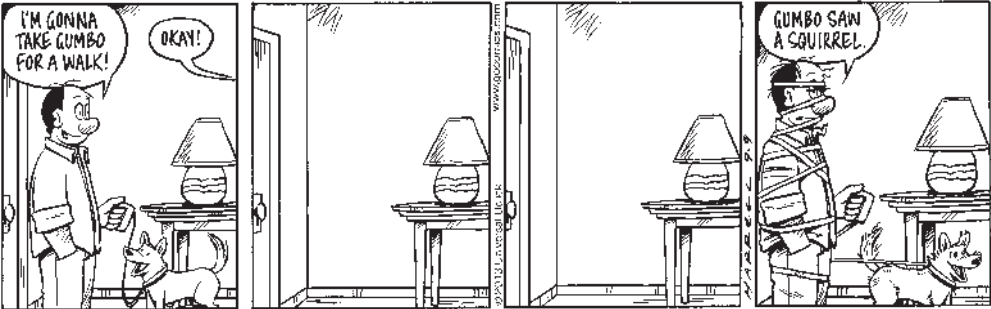
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



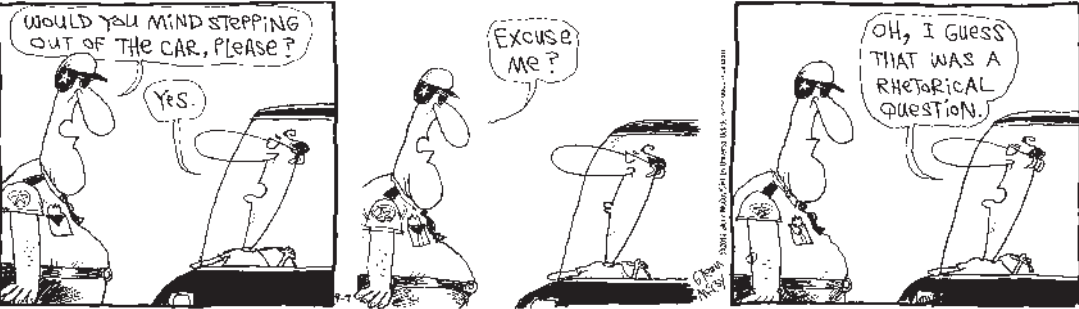
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 River barrier

4 Rapper/actor — Def

7 Jewish month

11 Footnote abbr.

13 Ostrich's cousin

14 Workbench attachment

15 Withered

16 U.S. soldiers

17 Help in an underhanded way

18 Grip

20 Subsequently

22 Salary

24 People of Baghdad

28 Plot-twist giveaway

32 Duck

33 Body powder

34 Female hog

36 Marathon fraction

37 Criminal pseudonym

39 Inhabitant

41 World-wide

43 Yank

44 Rhone city

46 Express gratitude

50 Stare

53 Space

55 Siamese, now

56 Leading man?

58 Knitting need

59 Nincompoop

60 Fresh

61 "See ya"

3 Actress Sorvino

4 "Family Guy" daughter

5 Leave out

6 Entree wrapped in seaweed

7 2007

8 Ad — Steve Carell movie

9 Work with

10 Allow

12 2010

19 Chum

21 Before

23 Affirmative

25 Classroom surprise

26 Not working

27 "Children should be —"

28 Without an escort

29 Grow weary — some

30 Hodgepodge

31 Scepter

35 Drench

38 Put into words

40 Almond or cashew

42 Enter cyberspace

45 Church section

47 Moby-Dick's pursuer

48 — a soul (nobody)

49 Cattle, old style

50 Wander

51 Commotion

52 Microwave

54 Manhandle

Friday's answer 9-9

Solution time: 27 mins.

MIDGE SOT USA
IDEAL CRY NET
TORSI ASSAULTS
APOLLO VOLE
ALI TAI MENSA
BELL TALON
SESAME ANGORA
MIXED EXIT
BOMBS XLI TOM
APED FIESTA
BEWAILS LOINS
ERE MET AGLET
LAD FAS MOSEY

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Williams, 33; Michael Buble, 38; Eric Stonestreet, 42; Hugh Grant, 53.

Happy Birthday: You will have the discipline to finish what you start and to make innovative strides that separate you from the competition. A change in your domestic situation can be expected but should not be forced. Let things unfold naturally and you will get what you want in the end. Use your skills and expertise diversely. Your numbers are 5, 12, 16, 24, 27, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refuse to stand by and watch. Be a participant and show everyone what you have to offer. Use whatever you've been given and you will set a new trend or standard amongst your peers. Believe in your ability to be successful. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An emotional issue must not be allowed to influence your work. Being productive will help ease your stress and build your confidence. Learn from your experience and by observing what others do. Anger is a waste of time. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your imagination when it comes to the way you handle money, work and the people you do business with. Take a moment to update your image or to improve your appearance. Being at your very best will make a difference. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Plan your next move. Don't limit what you can accomplish. Be aggressive, not impulsive; be innovative, not impractical. Know your limits

and express your strengths openly and confidently. If you want it, make it happen. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll gain respect for the information you share and be privy to facts that can help you dodge a misunderstanding. Use your reputation and past experience to avoid putting your energy in the wrong place. Play to win. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll learn from the experiences you've had dealing with people in your community or from different walks of life. Communication will be your channel to improvements and enforce your dedication to your beliefs and direction. Donate time, not cash. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen and learn. Take a back seat and avoid being dragged into a situation that has the potential to spin out of control. Taking on too much or feeling the need to overdo it must be avoided. Personal change can be liberating. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Live up to your word and give even more if you can. You can stand out and be counted for your talents, expertise and ability to get things done. Enjoy the rewards and take time to celebrate your accomplishments with someone you love. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Help others and feel good about who you are and what you can contribute. Don't be surprised if someone you are close to feels threatened and tries to downplay what you have done. It's time to make changes to your living arrangements. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Size up your situation and generate interest in what you are doing while you raise your profile. The recommendations that are given may not appear to be what you want at first, but in hindsight, you will be grateful for them. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen to what's being said and make whatever changes you feel are fair and necessary. Carry on with a job or situation you face. Love and communication will bring about positive change and good fortune. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put ideas and plans together and draw up a list of rules and goals to accomplish. Share your plans and you will enjoy the benefits that you are offered and the results you get. Deals can be made and contracts signed. *****

Birthday Baby: You are loyal, protective and intense. You are practical and precise.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★ 9/9

		5							
	8	7					6	3	
9	1			3	8			4	
				6	5	9			
		2	7		4	1			
		1	3	8					
	3		5	7			8	9	
	2	9					3	6	
							7		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	1	5	2	4	9	6	8
9	2	5	7	8	6	3	1	4
4	8	6	1	3	9	2	5	7
2	4	3	6	1	8	7	9	5
6	1	7	9	5	2	4	8	3
8	5	9	4	7	3	6	2	1
5	9	4	3	6	1	8	7	2
1	6	2	8	4	7	5	3	9
7	3	8	2	9	5	1	4	6

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BALANCE AND POSTURE Solution: 5 letters

Y M A P Y T G A R R Y S H C H
R R A D W P B H N Q E I T E E
D I O I J E A O E Z P E A N E
N B S S N U I R I S C L O T L
U T R D N T S L E H T I S E T
A L I E I E A T N H T F L R O
L N O S A R S I A A T T U S H
G E O R T T Q O N N N R M T E
O P A U T U H I T I D A P R E
L E E N E N D I O A L I E L
F N B I R O J N I M N N A
I O F A O N U C G G A O G G U
N T R O S N G N E N I P S T S
G B C O R E N K C A B T H I
E L C S U M E S I C R E X E V

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Last Friday's Answer: Tiffi

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaljclick.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

No. 1 Djokovic faces No. 2 Nadal in final



NEW YORK

(AP)—The game that will be talked about for years and years required 198 strokes, 30 points, and 21 minutes to decide. Entire sets have taken less.

It might be easy to conclude that Novak Djokovic won his tense, topsy-turvy U.S. Open semifinal against Stanislas Wawrinka despite dropping that epic third game of the fifth set. The truth is that the 2011 champion emerged with a 2-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 victory in 4 hours, 9 minutes on Saturday at least in part because of the one that got away.

"Even though I lost that game, I felt like, 'OK, he's getting a little bit more tired, and maybe this is my chance to step in,'" Djokovic said. "And that's what I (did)."

The No. 1-seeded Djokovic will play No. 2 Rafael Nadal on Monday. It's their record 37th match against each other, their sixth Grand Slam final, and their third meeting for the championship at Flushing Meadows since 2010. Nadal was a 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-2 winner over No. 8 Richard Gasquet of France in Saturday's second semifinal, which was far less competitive than the first.

Indeed, the tennis and the- atrics at 1-all in the last set alone of Djokovic-Wawrinka were so compelling that the game was interrupted twice by standing ovations.

By then, Wawrinka's strained right thigh had been taped after a medical timeout in the fourth set (he would be seized by cramps during his postmatch news conference). Still, he managed to erase five break points and navigate 12 deuces until finally delivering a 123 mph service winner to hold for a 2-1 edge. He stepped gingerly to the sideline, plopped down in his chair and smiled.

That grin remained in place throughout the two-minute changeover. If the ninth-seeded Wawrinka was enjoying the moment, perhaps feeling a tad relieved, Djokovic was ever more determined. He responded by taking the next three games, propelling himself to a fourth consecutive title match at Flushing Meadows and fifth since 2007.

"I was already quite tired," said Wawrinka, who won the same number of points in the match as Djokovic, 165. "I was already quite dead physically."

During his on-court interview, Djokovic took the microphone and posed a question: "How long was that game?"

He was told the answer, repeated it, then chuckled.

"Well, I was thinking—I guess everybody was thinking—'Whoever wins this game is going to win the match,'" the six-time major champion told the crowd in Arthur Ashe Stadium. "After he won the game, I thought to myself, 'OK, I guess I have to fight against those odds.'"



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, looks up into the grandstand before serving to Stanislas Wawrinka, of Switzerland, during the semifinals of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013, in New York.

The current version of Djokovic, the one who recently published a book about diet and fitness, is nothing if not dogged, able to withstand even the most dire of circumstances. It's why he managed to set aside match points and come back to beat Roger Federer in the 2010 and 2011 U.S. Open semifinals. It's why he was able to beat Nadal in a 2012 Australian Open final that lasted nearly six hours. It's why he was able to win the longest Wimbledon semifinal in history.

"At the end, he pushed me," Wawrinka said. "Pushed me far, far, far."

Nothing quite that dramatic occurred when 12-time major champion Nadal played Gasquet, who was in his first Grand Slam semifinal since 2007. The most newsworthy moment of their match came right at the 1-hour mark, when Nadal let a forehand drift long to get broken and make it 2-all in the second set. That allowed Gasquet to become the first player to break Nadal's serve in the entire tournament, ending a run of 73 holds.

There were five other break points for Gasquet, but Nadal saved each while stretching his hard-court record in 2013 to 21-0. A year after missing the U.S. Open because of a bad left knee, Nadal is looking as fit and as impressive as ever.

"I don't know if it's a victory to (break) his serve. I'm not sure about it. I think it's better to win one set or more," said Gasquet, now 0-11 against Nadal.

In the past, the U.S. Open was the only Grand Slam tournament to schedule the men's semifinals Saturday and the final Sunday, instead of having a day of rest in between. This year, the tournament scrapped that plan and built in an extra 24 hours.

As it is, Djokovic said he "didn't find it very fair" that he needed to play at noon Saturday after finishing his quarterfinal at about 11 p.m. Thursday. Nadal

and Gasquet played their quarterfinals Wednesday.

"I didn't find any logic in that, to be honest," Djokovic said. "But, again, there are some other, I guess, influences that have more power than players, and this has to be changed."

On Sunday, while Nadal and Djokovic rest and prepare, No. 1 Serena Williams will play No. 2 Victoria Azarenka for the women's championship. It's the first time both U.S. Open singles finals are 1-2 matchups since 1996.

Nadal is 21-15 against Djokovic, but said when they play, it "becomes a very difficult match for both of us."

Nadal said he'd rather face a less-formidable foe, because wanting to play someone as good as Djokovic would be "stupid."

Djokovic, meanwhile, called trying to beat Nadal "the biggest challenge that you can have in our sport now."

Dealing with Djokovic and his sliding, arm-stretching defense is no day at the beach, either.

NBA to install motion cameras in every arena

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



The NBA announced Thursday that it will install motion-tracking cameras in every arena this season to provide coaches, players and fans reams of data aimed at pulling back the curtain on what it takes to succeed at basketball's highest level.

The NBA has partnered with STATS on the SportVU cameras, and the relationship has grown from a single arena during the 2009 NBA Finals into a league-wide initiative that will be up and ready for the start of this season. The technology can monitor every move a player makes on the court, gauge how tired he is and can even keep an eye on the job referees are doing.

The project makes the NBA the first professional basketball league in the world, and the first sports league in the United States, to use the technology to analyze player movement.

"At this point, given the value of the data both at the team level and the league level, and the promise that it holds for unlocking some of the secrets for what makes great basketball teams, both for our basketball operations people and for our fans at home, we thought it was the right time to make

it a league-wide effort," NBA executive vice president of operations and technology Steve Hellmuth said.

The system of six cameras and accompanying software that delivers the data was first used in Orlando during the 2009 finals between the Magic and the Los Angeles Lakers. Over the last three years, 15 teams purchased the system from STATS, which is owned jointly by The Associated Press and 21st Century Fox, to put to use in their home arenas, arming themselves with data that could be tailored virtually any way teams want.

Want to see how successful Ricky Rubio was at guarding Russell Westbrook? The system could break down the shooting percentages and results of each head-to-head possession.

Want to get an idea how close to 100 percent Kevin Love was in his first few games back from a broken hand? The system could send information to the team trainers and doctors about his endurance and how quickly he is tiring during a game, thereby painting the most accurate picture possible of his recovery.

Want to see how many times Al Jefferson touched the ball on the left block in the first half? The system could send information to an iPad that showed the

location of every one of his possessions and allowed coaches to make adjustments on the fly.

"It's gone from an interesting concept to actually something that's allowing them to take action on a daily basis," STATS Vice President Brian Kopp said. "That was the big change that we knew we needed to make in order for this to be adopted by the teams. What we always wanted to do was to be at this point and have a partnership with the league itself."

When only 15 teams were using the technology, scores of games were being missed, which in turn made the sample sizes incomplete. Now, every game and every player will be monitored every night, creating a much more complete database.

"It's really evolved from a high-level concept, something that seemed interesting, to something that could be actionable and used on a daily basis," Kopp said.

And the players aren't the only ones who will be watched by the eye in the sky. Hellmuth said new executive vice president of basketball operations Rod Thorn will be able to use data on referees to more completely evaluate their performances.

Fans will have access to some

which reached 138 mph, his effective forehand and his sweet, one-handed backhand, to the tune of 57 winners, 19 more than Djokovic.

"Today I had the feeling that when I was playing my best level, I was better than him," said Wawrinka, who entered the day 2-12 against Djokovic. "But he's not No. 1 for nothing. That's why he won the match, because he always finds a solution."

Slowly but surely Djokovic found ways to bother Wawrinka, in part by forcing more errors off his forehand wing, in part by serving better himself. Wawrinka began showing signs of mental and physical fatigue. There was the problem with his right leg. He swatted a ball toward the upper deck, earning a warning, and later was docked a point for spiking his racket, picking it up and bending it over his knee to completely wreck the frame.

Wawrinka egged on fans to get louder and clap longer, soaking it all in—and getting a bit of a chance to catch his breath. Djokovic at first seemed annoyed, before he, too, waved for more noise.

Two games later, a sequence of errors by Wawrinka, capped by a weary backhand, let Djokovic break for a 3-2 lead.

"I managed to stay tough and play well when I needed to," Djokovic said. "That's something that definitely encourages me before the final."

of the data through presentations by the teams at the arena, on NBA.com and on NBA TV. Hellmuth and Kopp think the most helpful information will come on the defensive end, where stats like blocked shots and steals, while helpful, don't always paint the most accurate picture of the league's best defensive players.

"What this can measure is both shooting efficiency and shooting frequency," Hellmuth said. "When a defender's in the paint or in the area, players can always choose not to shoot when he's in the area. And then also how much does that defender reduce the shooting average of the players he's defending. These are some of the secrets this unlocks."

The algorithms that are used to interpret the data are constantly being refined, Kopp said, and now can identify certain plays—like a pick-and-roll—and defensive rotations. Now that they are poised to have even more data, the strength and breadth of the information the system can provide should only improve, he said.

"I really do think we've just scratched the surface on how we can use this," Kopp said. "I think the next few years will be fun as we have more data to work with."

Napoli hits 2 HRs, Red Sox bashes Yanks, 13-9



NEW YORK

(AP)—Mike Napoli hit two home runs, Jonny Gomes and prized rookie Xander Bogaerts also connected, and the Boston Red Sox kept up their dizzying scoring spree at Yankee Stadium, bashing New York 13-9 Saturday for their fifth straight win.

The AL East leaders became the first visiting team in more than a century to score at least nine runs on three straight days against the Yankees. In fact, the last time it happened, they weren't called the Yankees—Boston did it in 1912 to the Highlanders at Hilltop Park.

Down 12-3, the Yankees rallied with four runs in the sixth inning and chased John Lackey (9-12). Mark Reynolds added a two-run double in the eighth off Red Sox reliever Drake Britton that made it 12-9.

David Ortiz and Dustin Pedroia each contributed to Boston's five doubles. By the end of the fourth inning, it was 10-2 and every Red Sox batter had gotten a hit.

The Yankees scored at least six runs for the sixth game in a row. That wasn't enough for David Huff (2-1), tagged for nine runs and eight hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Orioles 4, White Sox 3

In Baltimore, Matt Wieters hit a two-run single in the 10th inning to lift Baltimore to its third consecutive win.

Pinch-hitter Henry Urrutia started the winning rally with a one-out infield single against closer Addison Reed (5-3). Pinch-runner Chris Dickerson then went all the way to third on Nick Markakis' base hit.

Reed bounced back with a strikeout of Nate McLouth, but Markakis stole second and both runners scored when Wieters lined a single into right field.

It was the ninth consecutive loss for the White Sox, who grabbed a 3-2 lead on Conor Gillaspie's pinch-hit homer against Tommy Hunter (4-3) in the top half of the inning.

Danny Valencia had three hits and Brian Roberts homered for the Orioles, who were 1 for 17 with runners in scoring position before Wieters' hit.

Royals 4, Tigers 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Justin Verlander in the sixth, helping Kansas City to the victory.

Perez's two-out drive to left made it 4-2. It was his 11th homer of the season.

Verlander (12-11) allowed four runs and eight hits in seven innings. The ace right-hander dropped to 0-3 with a 4.17 ERA in his last six starts.

Wade Davis (7-10), the second of five Kansas City pitchers, picked up the victory on his 28th birthday. Greg Holland worked a perfect ninth for his 39th save in 42 chances.



Boston Red Sox batter Mike Napoli hits a two-run home run during the second inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera, who leads the American League with 133 RBIs, walked with the bases loaded in the fifth and singled home another run in the seventh.

Athletics 2, Astros 1

In Oakland, Calif., Dan Straily pitched seven scoreless innings to lead surging Oakland to another victory.

Yoenis Cespedes and Jed Lowrie homered as the A's won for the seventh time in nine games to remain on top of the AL West. They began the day with a half-game lead over Texas.

Straily (9-7) allowed two hits, struck out seven and walked one in his third consecutive victory. The right-hander has a 1.50 ERA over 18 innings during his winning streak.

Dan Otero allowed a run in the eighth, but Sean Doolittle got four outs for his first save in four chances, completing the five-hitter.

Houston starter Brett Oberholtzer (4-2) pitched six stellar innings, allowing one run and seven hits.

Blue Jays 11, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Adam Lind hit a pair of three-run homers for Toronto, helping J.A. Happ snap a three-game losing streak.

Lind connected for his 18th homer in the Blue Jays' five-run first inning. He went deep again in the eighth for his second multi-homer game this season and No. 10 for his career.

Happ (4-5) was charged with an unearned run and five hits in 5 2-3 innings. The left-hander, who suffered a fractured skull

and sprained knee on May 7 when he was hit in the head by line drive, had a 7.71 ERA during his losing streak.

Twins starter Kevin Correia (9-11) allowed five runs and seven hits in six innings.

The Twins have lost nine straight home games for the first time since April 27-May 23, 2011.

Angels 8, Rangers 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Garrett Richards pitched seven effective innings, and the Angels parlayed three errors and another mammoth home run by Mark Trumbo into five early runs against Derek Holland to beat the Rangers.

The Rangers' fifth loss in six games, coupled with Oakland's 2-1 victory against Houston, put Texas 1 1-2 games behind the Athletics in the AL West race.

Richards (6-6) allowed two runs—one earned—and six hits while striking out five and walking one. The right-hander, who finished his night by fanning the side on 18 pitches, is 4-0 with a 3.25 ERA in seven starts at home this season.

Holland (9-8) was charged with eight runs—four earned—and eight hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Mariners 6, Rays 2

In Seattle, James Paxton threw six strong innings allowing just one earned run in his major league debut, Justin Smoak and Kendrys Morales hit solo homers and the Mariners continued Tampa Bay on its West Coast slide.

Tampa Bay lost for the seventh time in nine games on its swing through Seattle, Oakland and Los Angeles and saw its lead in the AL Wild Card race

reduced to one game after both Cleveland and Baltimore won on Saturday. The Rays have spent 61 straight days in position for a postseason berth, but if they can't avoid a sweep by the Mariners on Sunday, that run might finally end.

Paxton (1-0) became the latest Seattle prospect to make a successful debut, joining Taijuan Walker.

Indians 9, Mets 4

In Cleveland, Asdrubal Cabrera hit a three-run homer for the streaking Indians, and Nick Swisher had a solo shot.

Cleveland has won four in a row for the first time since it captured eight straight from July 24-Aug. 1. Swisher finished with two hits and two RBIs as the Indians stayed in the hunt for the AL's second wild-card slot.

Corey Kluber (8-5), the first of seven Cleveland pitchers, allowed two runs in five-plus innings. Kluber, pitching for the first time since Aug. 5 after being sidelined by a sprained right middle finger, was pulled after walking the leadoff hitter in the sixth.

Jonathon Niese (6-7) lost for the first time in six starts since coming off the disabled list on Aug. 11. The left-hander allowed six runs in six innings.

Cleveland began the day just two games back of Tampa Bay for the second wild card spot in the AL. The Indians and Orioles are tied with 76-65 records.

Reds 4, Dodgers 3

In Cincinnati, Billy Hamilton stole second in the 10th inning to set up Todd Frazier's game-

winning single, helping the Cincinnati Reds beat the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Ryan Ludwick opened the Cincinnati 10th with a leadoff walk against Brian Wilson (1-1). Reds manager Dusty Baker then went to the dynamic Hamilton, and the speedy prospect took second as catcher A.J. Ellis dropped the ball while taking it out of his glove.

Frazier followed with a line-drive single into right field to give Cincinnati five wins in its last six games. J.J. Hoover got three outs for the victory.

Yasiel Puig hit a two-run homer for NL West-leading Los Angeles.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 0

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright bounced back from back-to-back sub-par outings with seven shut-out innings and David Freese homered to lead the Cardinals to a win over the Pirates.

The victory moved the Cardinals into first place, a half-game ahead of the Pirates in the NL Central with their third win in four games. Pittsburgh has lost four of six including the first two of the three-game set. The Pirates remain stuck on 81 wins, one shy of assuring them a winning record for the first time since they went 96-66 in 1992.

Wainwright (16-9) had given up 15 earned runs over his previous two starts, both against Cincinnati. He allowed a career-high nine runs in two innings of a 10-0 loss Aug. 28. But he regained his form against the Pirates allowing just two hits.

Jeff Locke (9-5) allowed three runs on three hits over five innings.

Brewers 5, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Logan Schafer hit a three-run triple and Johnny Hellweg pitched six innings for his first career major league victory in the Brewers' win over the Cubs.

Hellweg (1-3) allowed three runs on four hits. He struck out one and pitched around three walks to finally earn his first victory after flourishing in the minors.

Brewers relievers Rob Wooten and Brandon Kintzler each pitched a scoreless inning then Jim Henderson pitched a perfect ninth for his 23rd save in 27 opportunities.

Jake Arrieta (2-2) took the loss.

Phillies 6, Braves 5

In Philadelphia, Freddy Galvis hit a game-ending homer with one out in the ninth inning to lift the Phillies to a win over the Braves.

Atlanta had trailed 5-3 going into the ninth, but Andrelton Simmons hit a two-out two-run homer off Jonathan Papelbon (5-1), who blew his seventh save in 32 opportunities.

Galvis, who had four hits, got Papelbon the win by connecting

on a 1-0 pitch from Freddy Garcia (0-1) into the seats in right field. It was the first four-hit game for Galvis, who had been 0-for-7 since being recalled from Triple-A Lehigh Valley on Sept. 3. It was his fifth homer of the season.

Carlos Ruiz singled, doubled and drove in three runs, and Cesar Hernandez and Kevin Frandsen each had three hits for the Phillies.

Freddie Freeman had two hits and two RBIs for NL East-leading Atlanta, which dropped its third straight.

Nationals 9, Marlins 2

In Miami, Ryan Zimmerman homered twice and drove in three runs, powering the Nationals to a victory over the Marlins.

Zimmerman hit a two-run shot in the first and a leadoff drive on Nathan Eovaldi's first pitch of the third.

Tanner Roark (5-0) pitched six scoreless innings as the Nationals won for the third time in four games to remain on the fringe of the NL wild-card race.

Eovaldi (3-6) lasted just three innings in his shortest outing of the season. He was charged with five runs and nine hits.

Padres 2, Rockies 1

In San Diego, rookie Jedd Gyoriko hit a go-ahead homer leading off the eighth inning to give the Padres a win over the Rockies.

Gyoriko's shot off Matt Belisle (5-6) came right after the Rockies tied the game at 1 in the eighth inning on a San Diego error.

Gyoriko's 17th home run just barely cleared the right field wall as it hit the top padding and avoided the leaping attempt of right fielder Michael Cuddyer.

Luke Gregerson (6-7) got the win and Huston Street picked up his 28th save by getting the final three outs.

Diamondbacks 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Brandon McCarthy pitched eight strong innings and Paul Goldschmidt had three hits, including a triple, to lift the Diamondbacks to a win over the Giants.

McCarthy (4-9) gave up one run and six hits while striking out six. Brad Ziegler pitched a scoreless ninth for his ninth save in 11 chances.

Goldschmidt broke a 1-1 tie with a triple to right center in the fifth inning that scored Adam Eaton, who walked.

Matt Cain (8-9) allowed eight hits and two runs in 6 1-3 innings. He struck out three and walked four. He was activated from the 15-day disabled list prior to the game after missing 14 games with a contusion on his right forearm. Coming into the game Cain had just one win in his last nine starts at home, going 1-5 with a 5.36 era over that stretch.

Tokyo 2020 Games shot in the arm for aging nation



TOKYO
(AP)—A half-century after

the 1964 Tokyo games heralded Japan's reemergence from destruction and defeat in World War II, the city's triumphant bid to host the 2020 games is giving this aging nation a chance to revive both its sagging spirits and its stagnating economy.

"In most competitions, if you don't win a gold medal, you can also win maybe a bronze one," Tokyo Gov. Naoki Inose told reporters in Buenos Aires after the International Olympic Committee chose his city to host the 2020 summer games. "In this battle, there was only the gold."

Hundreds of Japanese athletes and officials gathered downtown for the early morning announcement shouted "Banzai!" jumping up and down and hugging in unusually demonstrative reactions to the announcement the International Olympic Committee had opted for Tokyo's guarantees of safety and stability, despite the festering nuclear crisis in its northeast.

Japan's capital defeated Istanbul in the final round of voting at the International Olympic Committee meeting in Buenos Aires, after Madrid was eliminated in the first round.

The decision suggests IOC members were convinced by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's reassurances that radiation leaks from the nuclear plant wrecked in the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster pose no threat to Tokyo or the games.

The 1964 games were relatively bare bones by today's standards.

"There were no facilities, no food to eat; no barbells; no place to practice. That was



Japanese Olympians celebrate with Tokyo Municipal Government officials in Tokyo early Sunday morning, Sept. 8, 2013, upon learning Tokyo won the bid to host the 2020 Olympics as they watch a live broadcast from Buenos Aires, Argentina. AP

what it was like," said Yoshinobu Miyake, a featherweight weightlifting gold medalist at the 1964 games who recalls walking the streets of Tokyo with a crooked barbell in hand, looking for a place to practice.

"But still, we had to win—so it was a country that managed to go on with just a hungry spirit, a Japanese spirit," he said.

To prepare for the 1964 games, Japan rushed to build expressways and introduced its first high-speed "Shinkansen" bullet trains. The games won it worldwide recognition for its growing affluence and economic power, and were a turning point for the country's athletics, as it captured 16 golds, 29 medals in total, trailing only the United States and Soviet Union.

This time, many here consider

the Olympics a symbol of recovery both from economic stagnation and from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that left more than 19,000 people dead or missing on Japan's northeast coast.

"From here on, things will get better," said Yoko Kurahashi, 65, whose high school was just across the street from Tokyo's Metropolitan Gymnasium, the site for the 1964 games gymnastics and water polo competitions.

"This will help invigorate us," Kurohashi said as she stood outside Tokyo city hall with her 94-year-old mother-in-law watching hundreds of other Tokyo residents celebrating with gold streamers and balloons.

Japan is counting on the games to boost both the economy and morale. Two decades after its economic ascent was cut short by the

bursting of its financial bubble, its population shrinking and rapidly aging, it can use all the help it can get, said Yukio Takahashi, who was jubilant as he took his morning walk with his wife in a suburban park that was a main 1964 Olympic venue.

"This will help us to not lose confidence," Takahashi said. "It gives us a goal, something to strive for."

Surveys showed 70 percent of Tokyoites favored the bid.

Hosting the 2020 games could yield positive economic effects of over 4 trillion yen (\$40.4 billion) and create more than 150,000 jobs, according to some estimates, more than half of it new demand for construction, sales of Olympics-related goods and purchases of new televisions and other appliances.

Hosting the Olympics offers a strong excuse for pork-barrel-style construction projects. In reality, greater Tokyo, home to 35 million people, is facing a major overhaul of its aging infrastructure anyway, nowhere more so than in crumbling sports venues due to be refurbished for the 2020 Games.

The government hopes to boost visits by foreign tourists to 30 million a year by then, from the 8.36 million who came to Japan last year.

Improving consumer confidence is vital for the success of Abe's economic recovery strategy, which hinges on stimulating inflation by pumping more money into the economy, keeping interest rates near zero and improving Japan's competitiveness through a wide range of reforms.

Already, Olympics hopes have lifted share prices in construction, real estate and tourism-related companies.

Whether the Olympics, seven years away, would bring the sort of boost needed right now remains to be seen. Unless Japanese companies, long wary of betting on a shrinking domestic market, step up investments and raise wages, price hikes are more likely to discourage rather than spur more spending in the long run.

The ultimate economic impact from holding the games varies from city to city. The 2008 games were a strong plus for Beijing, yielding an impressive new airport, subway lines and other welcome infrastructure. London's 2012 games likewise were a boost for the British economy.

But the Bird's Nest stadium, the centerpiece of the 2008 games, stands neglected as a \$500 million souvenir. In Athens, many of the venues from the 2004 Olympics are desolate and weed-infested, and the Greek economy is in crisis.

Although Japan has a national debt amounting to twice the size of its economy, Tokyo itself has a \$4.5 billion "reserve fund" for infrastructure projects for the games. Japan's status as the world's third-biggest economy and its strong links to Olympic sponsors were additional strengths. The huge Asian market was another draw for the IOC.

Such assets outweighed concerns over leaks of radioactive water from the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. But they also will add to pressures on Tokyo to resolve the crisis.

"We have made promises," Abe said after the decision. "Now we have a responsibility to meet those expectations."

YANKEES

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rifice fly in the first and RBI doubles from Patrick Tenorio and Angel Palacios in the third and fourth, failed to score anew in the sixth, as Yankees closer Darion Jones struck out two and Mike Muna was beaten to home plate.

The Yankees, on the other hand, added three more earned runs at the bottom of the sixth for good measure, while the

Padres saved only one run at the top of the last inning, failing to extend the match. Jones ended the game with a strikeout on Kier Agda, leaving Tenorio stranded at third.

The big victory over the Padres made up for the Yankees' tough 6-7 loss to the Giants in the make-up game last Thursday.

Giants 7, Yankees 6

The Giants capitalized on the Yankees' erratic defense and had a solid pitching in the last

three innings to eke out a close win and improved to a 4-2 record (pending results of the Giants last Saturday's game against the Tigers).

The Giants got four of their six runs off the Yankees' boobos, while the two other runs came off L.J. Sebaklim's RBI single and a sacrifice fly from Ray Borja. The Giants scored the six runs in the first four innings to hold a precarious 7-5 lead, which they kept, as they held the Yankees to one run in the last three after giving up

four at the top of the fourth.

Franco Nakamura, who was the third pitcher for the Giants, shut out the Yankees in the fifth and sixth, striking out four, including the first three batters at the top of the fifth. The Giants then finished off the Yankees in style with a double play. The big defensive stop came with the bases loaded and started with first baseman T.J. Dela Cruz catching a fly ball before beating Jeremy Atalig in a run-down play to wrap up the match half inning early.

S.J. OL'ACES

From Page 28

co led the Rebelholics' losing cause, tallying 9 points.

First Game

S.J. Ol'Aces 63 — Olopai 21, Pettis 8, Mizer 8, Camacho 8, Babauta 4, San Nicolas 3, Nabors 3, Mendoza 3.

Rollers 53 — Morales 19, Factor 10, Babauta 8, Aldan 8, Ano 4, Arciaga 3, Malonzo 3,

Fidelino 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-9, 32-16, 46-37, 63-53.

Second Game

Proa/Mariana Resort 63 — Pamintuan 15, Kwon 15, Manalili 14, Aguilar 9, Camacho 8, Benavente 2.

Rebelholics 38 — Francisco 9, Retan 6, Iba 4, Toves 4, El-lama 4, Sagun 3, Rios 3, Vivero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-7, 28-13, 51-28, 63-38.

DELA CRUZ

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pat and Tenorio in the Top 3 last week, slid to fourth with his .429. The Padres third baseman was 9-for-21. The Giants Franco Nakamura rounded out the Top 5 with his .433 off a 7-for-21 performance at the plate.

The Top 15 batting leaders are based on 15 or more at times at bat and completing the list are the Padres' Leroy Regis (6-for-15/.400); the Dodgers' Craig Aguon (6-for-15/.400); the Braves' A.J. Lizama (6-

for-17/.353), the Giants' Kenji Yamagata (6-for-18/.333); the Padres' Lancaster Secharmidal (5-for-16, .313) and Kainoa Wanket (5-for-16, .313); the Braves' Lucio Kalen (5-for-16, .313); and the Yankees' Roke Tenorio (5-for-16, .313); Greg Iskawa (5-for-16, .313); and Darion Jones (6-for-21/.286).

The Giants' K.J. Deleon Guerrero missed the battling leaderboard, but is ahead in the runs race with his 11, while Tenorio and Regis have nine and eight, respectively. In the doubles category, Lizama, Kaipat, Blas, and Jones have

two each, while in the triples department, eight players have one apiece. In the RBI division, the Giants' Devyn Flores has gained seven, just one ahead of Dela Cruz, while Nakamura has notched four.

In the pitching race, the Yankees' Gino Dela Cruz and the Braves' Frankie Lieto and J.J. Lifofoi remained tied for first place with their 0.00 ERA. Dela Cruz has allowed six runs in nine innings pitch, while Lieto gave up three in 7.2 innings. Lifofoi pitched 7.1 innings and allowed only one run.

Joining the co-leaders in the

Top 10 are the Braves' Logan Martin (0.46); Jones (0.62); the Giants' Jesse Brel (0.68); Brian Camacho (1.24); the Tigers' Keene Deleon Guerrero (1.50) and Jose Lizama (1.50); and K.J. Deleon Guerrero (1.75), who leads the league in strikeouts with his 14.

Sharing the No. 1 spot in strikeouts race with K.J. Deleon Guerrero are Brel and Lizama. Iskawa is at second with his 13, followed by Lifofoi (11), Camacho (11), Martin (10), Jones (10), the Cardinals' Davie Matagolai (10), and Nakamura (9).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS					NATIONAL LEAGUE				
AMERICAN LEAGUE					East Division				
East Division					Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	87	57	.604	—	St. Louis	82	60	.577	—
Tampa Bay	77	64	.546	8 1/2	Pittsburgh	81	60	.574	1/2
Baltimore	76	65	.539	9 1/2	Cincinnati	81	62	.566	1 1/2
New York	75	67	.528	11	Milwaukee	61	80	.433	20 1/2
Toronto	66	76	.465	20	Chicago	60	81	.426	21 1/2
Central Division					West Division				
Detroit	82	60	.577	—	Los Angeles	83	58	.589	—
Cleveland	76	65	.539	5 1/2	Arizona	72	69	.511	11
Kansas City	74	68	.521	8	Colorado	66	77	.462	18
Minnesota	61	79	.436	20	San Diego	64	77	.454	19
Chicago	56	85	.397	25 1/2	San Francisco	63	79	.444	20 1/2
West Division									
Oakland	82	60	.577	—					
Texas	80	61	.567	1 1/2					
Los Angeles	67	74	.475	14 1/2					
Seattle	65	77	.458	17					
Houston	47	95	.331	35					

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Saipan welcomes Tinian soccer players, officials

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan through Paire Football Club played host to the Tinian Premier FC, which suited up in three friendly games at the Koblerville Elementary School Field last week.

Paire FC challenged the fledgling Tinian Premier FC to U8, U10, and U12 matches

with around 60 players from the visiting club showing their new found skills to the over 40 players from the host.

From Koblerville, two Tinian Premier FC coaches went to San Antonio to attend a two-hour coaching clinic. Saipan Soccer School and Chelsea FC Soccer School of Hong Kong held the clinic, which drew 33 other coaches from MP United

FC, Paire FC, Tan Holdings FC, Shirley's FC, Kanoa FC, and Matansa FC. AFC License B coach Jason Chung and former Hong Kong National Team player Kwok On "David" Tsui of Chelsea FC Soccer School of Hong Kong led the clinic and were assisted by SSS' Jershuin Angeles, Mae Ito, Ruselle Zapanta, and Irish Pagarao.

From San Antonio, representatives of the various clubs also trooped to Kanoa Resort to receive balls and draw string bags SSC donated through the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Each club received 15 balls and 15 bags, which they could use for training sessions for this fall season.

Meanwhile, other sports were also busy last week.

Northern Marianas Badminton

Association held championship games for the 2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic at the TSL Sports Complex, while Saipan Baseball League, Inc. continued with the regular season games in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands had

its U15 and U19 games in the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League, while DL Corp. held the title game between eventual champion Adobo and RadioCom.

Saipan Bowling Association held its August roll-offs with Ron Cal and Paul Pangelinan topping the women's and men's divisions, respectively.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Winners in the 2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic and Shirley's Coffee Shop manager Susan Macario pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony last week at Nami in Kanoa Resort.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tinian Premier FC players and officials huddle during the halftime break of their friendly game against Paire FC last week at the Koblerville Elementary School.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A S.J. Ol'Aces player loses the ball, as he is hemmed in by two Rollers defenders during their game in the Rotary U19 league last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Braves players pose for a photo before heading back to the field to bat against the Yankees during a game in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tinian Premier FC players goes for a header during their friendly game against Paire FC last week at the Koblerville Elementary School.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A participant in a small sided game shoots during a drill conducted by Saipan Soccer School and Chelsea FC Soccer School of Hong Kong last week at the San Antonio Elementary School Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coaches play a small sided game during a clinic conducted by Saipan Soccer School and Chelsea FC Soccer School of Hong Kong last week at the San Antonio Elementary School Field.



Saipan Tribune Sports



28 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yankees snap Padres' winning streak



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Yankees' Gino Dela Cruz gets ready for a throw to first base to beat a Padres runner during the top of the fourth inning of their game in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Yankees handed the Padres their first loss of the season in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League after recording a 9-4 win in last Saturday's third and final game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



A six-run bottom of the fourth inning helped the Yankees pull off an upset over the Padres and avenge their 0-3 defeat to the latter in the first round of the competition. The Yankees began the fourth behind by three, 0-3, but ended the inning on top, 6-3, behind the three-run single of M.J. Sakisat, an RBI single from Andrew Salas, a passed ball, and an error. The Padres, who entered the second round with a perfect 6-0 record, used three different pitchers in the fourth inning, hoping to stop the Yankees' momentum but to no avail.

The Padres then tried to make up for its poor pitching and other defensive lapses on offense, as they got into scoring position at the top of the fifth. The bases were loaded with no out, but the Yankees made a double play with third baseman Gino Dela Cruz picking a line drive and throwing to home for a tag out on Virgil Secharmidal. Two other Padres runners were left stranded, as Sakisat caught a fly ball at first.

The Padres, who got their three runs off Quinson Blas' sac-

See YANKEES on Page 26

S.J. Ol'Aces nears sweep of Rotary U19 league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The S.J. Ol'Aces is a win away from sweeping the regular season of the U19 division of the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League, following another victory last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The S.J. Ol'Aces topped the Rollers, 63-53, to stretch its winning streak to six. The S.J. Ol'Aces will go for the sweep of the round-robin league this week when it meets the Kagman Cougars.

Thought it lost by twin digits, the Rollers (2-3) managed to threaten the league-leading S.J. Ol'Aces for a while, moving within 4 points, 42-46, at the start of the fourth quarter. The S.J. Ol'Aces then sued for time and when the game resumed, it buckled down to work to widen the gap anew. Derek Olopai escaped with several fastbreak layups past the halfway mark of the fourth frame to lift the S.J.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An S.J. Ol'Aces player drives against three Rollers defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the U19 division of the Rotary cag-ing last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces to the victory.

Olopai finished with a game-high 21 points and was the lone double-figure scorer for the S.J. Ol'Aces. Darrius Pettis, Chris Mizer, and Daniel Camacho chipped in 8 apiece.

C.J. Morales paced the Rollers with his 19 points, while Prince Factor contributed 10.

Proa 63, Rebelholics 38

In the second game last Friday, Proa/Mariana Resort (3-2) coasted past the Rebelholics (1-5).

Proa consistently scored in double figures in all four quarters to pound the Rebelholics, which had the game out of its hands right in the first half. The Rebelholics made only three field goals each in the first and second period, allowing Proa to take a commanding 28-13 lead.

Aaron Pamintuan and Dixon Kwon top-scored in Proa's easy victory, recording 15 points apiece. Ankie Manalili added 14, while Joe Aguilar and William Camacho combined for 17 markers. Wilfredo Francis-

See S.J. OL'ACES on Page 26

Dela Cruz threatens Padres batters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Inaugural season MVP Ricardo Dela Cruz barged into the Top 15 of the batting race in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League after last Thursday's game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Tigers slugger, who is incidentally the defending batting champion, but missed the leaderboard in the first two weeks of the season, soared

to the No. 2 spot with his .500 average, built on an 8-for-16 performance at the plate. Dela Cruz, who helped the Tigers won back-to-back games last week, share second place with the Padres' Patrick Tenorio (9-for-18), and is getting closer to No. 1 Khobby Kaipat, also of the Padres. Kaipat holds a batting average of .579 after going 11-for-19 and retains the top spot for two weeks.

Kier Agda, who joined Kai-

See DELA CRUZ on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Tigers' Ricardo Dela Cruz cranks up an RBI single in this play against the Yankees during a game in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.